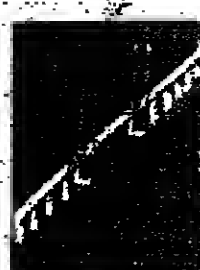




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The KGB man and the PM's wife

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THE TIMES

No. 64,696

WEDNESDAY JULY 14 1993

45p

Tax rises may not be needed

Surprise leap in output boosts Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JANET BUSH

JOHN Major yesterday hailed fresh evidence of a solid economic recovery as the biggest surge in factory output for four years boosted the pound and gave him respite from his mounting troubles.

Manufacturing production jumped by 1.8 per cent in May, suggesting that the economy is growing more robustly than the government had forecast and raising hopes that tax increases may not be necessary in November.

Output is now nearly 5 per cent up on last year and in the past few months, manufacturers have reversed almost half of the decline suffered during the recession. The latest figures show increases in nearly all areas — apart from food, drink and tobacco — with car production up by more than 10

Encouraged by heartening economic figures, John Major set aside MPs' doubts over the Christchurch by-election to give a fighting Commons performance

per cent over the past three months and computers by more than 8 per cent.

The prime minister, facing the daunting prospect of the Christchurch by-election and a Commons vote on the Maastricht social chapter, seized on the welcome statistics to give one of his most effective Commons performances for some time. The figures were only one of many signs that the economy was recovering, he said. Retail sales were up, car registrations up, confidence up and unemployment down.

In a combative display that had Tory backbenchers roaring approval, Mr Major also faced head-on the renewed row about the imposition of value-added tax on fuel bills, effectively accusing Labour and the Liberal Democrats of hypocrisy in condemning the charge as he claimed it was a policy they both advocated.

John Smith accused the prime minister of "betraying election pledges" but Mr Major flung a copy of a Labour newspaper containing references to an energy tax across the despatch box, claiming Mr Smith did not even know his party's policy. He then rounded on Paddy Ashdown "before the Liberal leader looks too smug" to allege that his party had also called for an end to the "anomalous" zero rate of VAT on fuel. "Perhaps you will go back to Christchurch and tell them that," he declared.

As he spoke, the Liberal Democrats were exploiting Monday's narrow VAT vote as they stepped up their by-election campaign, while the Conservative candidate Robert Hayward underlined the opposition to the charge by distancing himself from government policy.

The government's slim majority over VAT also emphasised Mr Major's problems with the social chapter vote. Defeat — possible if only ten Conservatives vote with the opposition parties — could leave Mr Major facing a motion of no confidence days before the by-election. Already ministers are saying the vote is too close to call, and it could be decided by how many Ulster Unionists turn up, but one senior backbencher said: "The chances are we will lose."

Mr Major should, however, receive a boost today when the House of Lords is expected to reject Baroness Thatcher's call for a referendum on the Maa-

tricht treaty, and in the Commons yesterday, the prime minister was happy to remind his party that the political pain of recession was easing.

He congratulated Rover on a 13 per cent rise in worldwide car sales in the first six months of this year. "They have increased their sales in Europe quite significantly, and to have done that in the trading conditions of Europe speaks volumes for their pricing and the quality of their product," he said. "There is no doubt that British industry is becoming more competitive and that British manufacturing industry, in particular, is beginning to penetrate new markets in quite a substantial way."

With manufacturing output at its highest level since September 1990, now analysts expect the government to raise its estimate of 1.25 per cent growth this year, and a forecast of 2 per cent is the norm in the City. There are also doubts about whether Kenneth Clarke need contemplate tax increases to tackle the £50 billion budget deficit.

John Sheppard, chief economist at Yamaiichi International, Europe, said: "The Chancellor talking about raising taxes is a real own goal. What he should be saying is that the economy is growing well, that this will cut the public deficit and we don't need higher taxes." Mr Sheppard believes that only a lack of confidence is holding the economy back. "We have all been neurotically looking at peripheral things like house prices and doubted the recovery. But if you look at the indicators that really matter, like manufacturing, it is clear that this recovery has a lot of momentum."

The City has been particularly impressed by the balanced nature of growth. Production for investment has been stronger than most sectors — up 6.5 per cent on last year — while that for the consumer sector, cars aside, remains relatively subdued. Ian Harnett, chief economist of Strauss Turnbull, said: "The emphasis on the investment sector rather than the consumer sector suggests that growth this time may be more sustainable. These are very good figures."

Peter Kiddle, page 8
Stern, page 21
Tempus, page 25



Tidal fury: a fishing boat tossed on to the quayside lies near a wrecked fire engine after 10ft waves hit Okushiri island in Japan yesterday

Birt to answer Tully's attack on BBC reform

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Birt, the BBC director-general, will this morning defend his far reaching reforms after a savage attack on his management of the corporation by one of his most respected journalists.

Mark Tully, the veteran India correspondent, yesterday issued a warning that Mr Birt was destroying the skill base which has made the BBC famous by putting television above radio and money above everything else.

The personality cult that has been built up around Mr Birt by sycophantic managers had created a climate of fear among staff, he said. He questioned the suitability of the present management to run the corporation.

Although Mr Tully's speech to the Radio Academy in Birmingham had been leaked, the 400 broadcasters and commentators in the audience were taken aback by its passion. They listened in silence for 45 minutes as Mr Tully took the most elegant of verbal sledgehammers to the twin pillars of the Birtist reforms — producer choice and bimodalism — in his perfectly clipped BBC tones. He received a five-minute ovation.

Senior managers who had been bused in to pack the audience immediately countered his emotional attack. Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC Radio, urged Mr Tully to consider "the other side" of the



Tully: sledgehammer in clipped tones

BBC story, which she said may be less clear from his base in India. The BBC could no longer ignore the expansion in broadcasting, with the introduction of cable and satellite television and the explosion of commercial radio.

Mr Birt is expected to adopt a similar argument in his address to the Radio Academy this morning. He is ready to defend his innovative producer choice and the slimming down of the BBC staff and overheads, explaining that for years the BBC had resources that far exceeded even peak demand.

However, David Hatch, adviser to the director-general, conceded that Mr Tully had been right to suggest that the BBC should "investigate the pain" that the sweeping changes and cuts introduced

by Mr Birt had caused among the staff.

Mr Tully emphasised that his rhetoric was not aimed personally at Mr Birt. He questioned the ideological "revolutionary speak" in vogue at the corporation. "My belief is that John Birt and those supporting him are too much 'today's men'. You only have to read the BBC's own communications to see that it is the prisoner of latest management speak."

He likened the emergence of a leadership cult around Mr Birt to a similar phenomenon in India. "Indira Gandhi became all-powerful, no-one dared to give her advice, let alone tell her what was wrong. In the corporation today there are too many managers who appear to be saying John Birt is the BBC and the BBC is John Birt."

Mr Tully said that bimodalism, which requires staff to work in both radio and television, and producer choice, the new costings system, were stifling creative freedom. The policies smacked of "social engineering" and created a climate of fear.

Ian McIntyre and
Diary, page 14

Japan quake triggers Russian tidal waves

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Japanese government last night declared parts of Hokkaido a disaster zone as the earthquake death toll reached 70. At least 170 people are still missing.

The fiercest earthquake in 25 years, with its epicentre in the Sea of Japan, unleashed a catastrophic wave of fires and tidal waves that caused casualties as far away as the Russian coast. "We fear that as many as 200 people could have died," said Yukio Koshimori, a mayor on the northern

island of Okushiri, which took the worst of the battering from the undersea quake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale.

The Russian Interfax news agency said a strong tidal wave hit northern parts of Russia's far eastern Primorsky Krai region yesterday. It is feared that there could be many victims as 10ft waves hit just after midnight, damaging fishing vessels and an oil pipeline.

Trail of devastation, page 11

Iraq told not to 'play with fire'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS THE chief United Nations weapons inspector prepared to fly to Baghdad today, diplomats gave a warning that if his mission failed it could trigger a new Western attack on Iraq.

"The Iraq government is playing with fire, and I hope they will stop playing with fire," Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN ambassador and this month's president of the UN Security Council, said after the meeting which authorised the mission.

Rolf Ekus, chairman of the UN special commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, will demand that Iraq accepts long-term UN monitoring of its defence capabilities as required by the UN resolutions that ended the Gulf war. The regime of President Saddam Hussein has constantly challenged these conditions.

An American solution preventing the use of two missile test sites "may be possible", Mr Ekus said. Iraqi officials have suggested that the testing equipment might be moved to Muthanna, Iraq's main chemical weapons depot, where UN inspectors destroy lethal chemical armaments.

Fear of bankruptcy drove Lloyd's name to suicide

By NICHOLAS WATT

A SOLICITOR facing heavy losses at Lloyd's hanged himself after learning that he might be forced into bankruptcy, an inquest was told yesterday.

Harold Weston, 51, a member of a loss-making Gooda Walker syndicate, was found by Diana, his wife, hanging from a banister at their home in Cricklewood, London, on April 2.

Mrs Weston told Hammersmith Coroner's Court: "He was told he might have to go bankrupt and would not be able to practise as a solicitor. He said they asked for more and more money and that's when he started to sleep badly."

According to the Blue Book,

which records members' interests at Lloyd's, Mr Weston was a member of nine syndicates, including number 290, run by Gooda Walker. As one of Lloyd's biggest losers the syndicate is facing losses of 150 per cent in 1990 alone.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said: "Syndicate 290 made the bulk of the losses in 1988 and 1989. It underwrote marine property and reinsured other Lloyd's syndicates."

Mr Weston's debts at Lloyd's now pass to his wife who said that it was "too painful" to discuss.

Dr Mary Archer, chairman of the Lloyd's Members' Hardship Committee, described the death as a great tragedy and said Mr Weston could have avoided the threat

of bankruptcy. "He never applied to our scheme which is designed to avoid bankruptcy," she said. "It is a private arrangement and has no civil disabilities."

Mrs Weston said that her husband had spoken of killing himself, but had promised not to. However, on April 1, he took two sleeping tablets. "In the morning I saw him hanging from the banister."

Recording a verdict of suicide, Dr Arnold Mendoza, the deputy coroner, said: "The loss of money was causing him considerable anxiety. He committed suicide and really, the story is quite definite."

Mr Weston is the fifth Lloyd's name to commit suicide since heavy losses were incurred.

Major supports plan for Sunday shopping

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major yesterday declared himself fully behind plans to scrap restrictions on Sunday shopping as the government disclosed proposals to reform trading laws.

The government yesterday published the four options from which MPs will choose a new law in a free vote. Choices range from total deregulation to proposals under which most shops would be prohibited from opening on Sunday and would face a fine of up to £50,000 for contravention.

The prime minister made clear that he supported Michael Howard, the home secretary, in pressing for shops in England and Wales to follow Scotland's lead. Downing

Street said Mr Major "favours the maximum amount of choice for the public. The public are increasingly becoming used to shopping on Sunday and demand the convenience that offers."

Mr Howard yesterday described the current legislation as a mess. He took the rare step of publishing a draft bill well ahead of legislation, to ensure wide debate.

The other options include allowing large shops to open for only six hours on Sunday and allowing supermarkets to open only on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The issue will be high on

Continued on page 2, col 6

Graham Searjeant, page 21

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Revised The Times overseas circulation figures for 1992:
Australia 32,250; Canada 18,250;
Czechia 1,000; Denmark 1,000;
France 15,000; Germany 15,000;
Greece 1,000; Hong Kong 1,000;
India 1,000; Italy 1,000;
Japan 1,000; Korea 1,000;
Malta 1,000; Mexico 1,000;
Morocco 1,000; New Zealand 1,000;
Norway 1,000; Portugal 1,000;
Spain 1,000; Sweden 1,000;
Switzerland 1,000;
Taiwan 1,000; USA 1,000.



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Wave of support: children of Sandilands school, Wythenshawe, show Juan Antonio Samaranch where they think the Olympics should go

Tory candidate is undecided on VAT

By Jonathan Prynn and Nicholas Wood

ROB Hayward, the Conservative candidate in the Christchurch by-election, yesterday distanced himself from government policy by refusing to give unconditional backing to the imposition of value-added tax on domestic fuel bills.

As John Major hit back in the Commons against Labour over the issue dominating campaigning in a seat where the pensioner vote is critical, Mr Hayward was repeatedly pressed on how he would have voted in Monday night's division in the House, when a backbench rebellion cut the government majority to eight.

He would say only that he supported overall government economic strategy. He added he would not finally make up his mind on the issue until he had seen details of the planned compensation package for the less well-off, to be unveiled in the November Budget.

In the Commons, the prime minister defended himself against taunts from the opposition parties that he had betrayed election pledges by extending VAT to gas and electricity bills in the search for an extra £2.8 billion of revenue. Mr Major accused Labour and the Liberal Democrats of hypocrisy by insisting they had also advocated ener-

gy taxes in policy documents. Amid uproar in the House, the prime minister flung a copy of the current edition of *Labour Party News* across the dispatch box to John Smith, saying that the Labour leader did not know his own stance on the issue.

Mr Major said: "It asks the question in what ways can economic policy be developed to encourage environmental protection and it goes on to say you might consider taxation policy, e.g. an energy tax."

□ 1992 general elections: R J Adley (C) 36.6%; Rev D Bussey (LD) 36.1%; A Lloyd (Lab) 6.9%; J Barrett (NIP) 2.4%; A Wareham (CRA) 1.5. C maj: 23,015.



Hayward refused to back government line

Water watchdog demands challenge to EC clean-up

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

BRUSSELS must be challenged over the scale and pace of its European water quality improvements to avoid bills in Britain rocketing, the water industry regulator urged yesterday.

The billions of pounds needed to meet existing and tightening rules on everything from sewage to pesticides meant millions of households faced bills up to 25 per cent higher, rising in some cases by up to £100.

Ian Byatt, director general of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), said that large numbers of low income families faced lives without tap water as rising bills led to more disconnections. Mr Byatt accused Brussels and environmentalists of setting utopian rather than realistic goals for EC tap and river water standards. Some of Europe's existing and planned obligations offered little or no tangible benefits for customers' health or the environment and were formulated by ideology rather than science, he said.

Mr Byatt urged environmental ministers to go back to

Ofwat warns that domestic water bills will rise by up to £100 if the government implements Brussels' 'utopian' standards

Brussels for revisions of some existing rules and a slowing of the timetable for improvements, particularly for pesticide removal and sewage treatment for inland rivers and estuaries.

Meeting EC rules on pesticide levels, for which Britain is facing legal action after breaching the existing drinking water directive, would cost £1 billion in new equipment and should be reconsidered. Implementing the new directive on urban waste water treatment, which will require large numbers of inland sewage treatment works, will cost £10 billion.

Mr Byatt, who has sent his report to ministers, said it was vital that the timetable for implementation should be spread over ten rather than five years. New limits being considered by the commission for substances, including organic compounds and heavy metals such as lead, should be resisted until stringent costings had been made.

Ofwat's report was yesterday welcomed by Tim Yeo, the environment minister, and Jim Gardner, the chairman of Ofwat's national consumer council, who said consumers believed that the rest of Europe flouted EC directives.

Mr Gardner said the consumers' view was that "these buggers in Europe won't pay for it so why should we". Mr Yeo said the country and consumers could no longer afford gold-plated schemes. "We are determined the water companies should not go an inch further or a second faster than they have to for the purpose of complying with the directives. This report will stimulate a debate about the trade off between standards and price. If you want improvements in drinking water, bathing water and sewage there is a price tag attached."

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Manchester fetes lord of the rings

THE president of the International Olympic Committee completed a marathon tour of Manchester yesterday and declared that the city had offered a "unique and wonderful" lesson in how to present a bid for the Olympic Games.

With the city buoyant at the news that it is now second favourite to Sydney to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, Juan Antonio Samaranch was subjected to a physical and mental decathlon as he visited the proposed venues ahead of the September decision.

Unfortunately, although the IOC's evaluation commission had reported that Manchester is likely to have rain on only three days during the Games — less than Sydney — being the middle of July, it was windy and there was a persistent drizzle.

Among his ports of call were Sandilands infants' school in Wythenshawe, one of 220 doing projects based on the Olympics, the town hall for a presentation, Salford Quays, the G-MEX and other indoor centres. He was also taken on a helicopter tour.

Everywhere he was asked the same question: Will Manchester win? He smiled politely before replying: "That," he said, "is up to the IOC members."

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Creature from the black lagoon savages Labour

JURASSIC Park has come to Westminster, as the education minister Robert Squire observed yesterday. Afficionados of the Lords and Commons will know that even in 1993 there are places where a wide range of prehistoric monsters thrive. They can be viewed in different habitats and enclosures. Some roam freely, others are confined to pens, paddocks and pits.

The Chamber of the Lords is undoubtedly the Jurassic pit. These monsters' big open-day is today. Creatures not sighted in decades are converging ever as we speak, to discuss Maastricht. The whole Palace of Westminster rumbles as, down the corridor in their Lordships' House, things hatch, sturbing beasts awake and yawn, and sharp-toothed Tory whipdactyls wing their way around the voting lobbies in search of rebellious vertebrates. To this we return in tomorrow's Times.

But what of the Commons? With so much famous reptile activity among peers, it would be easy to forget that the Commons, too, is home to creatures long extinct in the world outside. Yesterday saw quite a number ranging across the green benches.

Take two Toryotops as different as Conservatives can be: David Evans (C, Weymouth and Portland) and Sir Anthony Grant (C, Cambridgeshire SW).

Evans is a Cockney made good: a big-hearted hanger and flogger. Evansodons used to be a common sight, particularly in the Essex marshes, stomping through the undergrowth of the peat-bourgeoisie. Their angry trumpeting echoed that of their near-relatives, the tax-dodgers.

Though elsewhere they are dying out, in the Commons paddock this specimen thrives. Yesterday's first outburst from the beast appeared to relate to the testing of teachers. It quickly turned into a rant about why social-

ists ("that lot over there") should wear L-plates around their necks. "Thank you," said the minister, gingerly, to the Evansodon, "for that endorsement of teacher appraisal."

It was only a warm-up for his second primeval roar, to the prime minister. This was meant to be about Mr Major's trip to Japan, but became another blast against that lot over there, particularly their leader. "Es nuffink but the wriggler from Monklams East," concluded the Evansodon, if Evansodons do conclude.

The Siranthonytops is a wholly different Toryotop. Tall and erect, with bristles above its upper lip, creatures like this once stalked the savannahs of the haute-bourgeoisie right across southern England. Now just a few of them survive in semi-captivity in the Smoking Room at Westminster. Yesterday the Siranthonytops whinnied at education ministers that Cambridge dons deplored the underestimating way that first-class passes were being awarded, some of them by universities whose so-called graduates were scarcely worthy of the name.

But hark! A roar from the swamps of Bow and Poplar! It was "Mildred Gordon", the huge, shambling East End Trotskysaurus, survivor from another age. Gordon bellowed her opposition to schools testing: a formidable bellow which soon had the entire primeval element of the Labour party bellowing in support.

Toryotops and Labour-dons barked and grunted. What prehistoric richness had we here! There is hardly time to tell you about the Brontasmithus which lumbered onto PM's questions to chew the leavings concerning VAT on pensioners' heating bills.

Beware, grunted the Brontasmithus: the ice age cometh! He should know.

Turkey promises to help hostage pair

ERDAL Inonu, the Turkish deputy prime minister, yesterday promised that his country would try hard to secure the release of the British engineer and his Australian cousin who were kidnapped in eastern Turkey last week. He told Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that the couple's safety was paramount. Mr Hurd praised Turkey's "prompt and extensive assistance".

Kurdish separatists holding David Rowbottom, 27, and Tania Miller, 28, said that they would release them if the Turkish forces stopped air and ground operations against the People's Liberation Army of Kurdistan. They also called on the Red Cross and international medical organisations to mediate and escort the two safely from the region.

Commander Ebubekir, a guerrilla leader, was quoted by the Kurdistan information centre in London as saying that his men would like to release the pair, but could not do so because of the danger to their lives from the intensive military operations of the Turkish army.

Bernstein leaves £6.7m

LORD Bernstein, the former head of Granada Television, left his extensive art collection to two museums in his £6.7 million will published yesterday. The drawings, paintings and sculptures will be divided equally between the City Art Gallery, Manchester, and Israel's Jerusalem Foundation.

Airgun killed boy of 5

A boy aged 5 who loved cowboy games and guns died when he was accidentally shot in the head by his 16-year-old uncle's air rifle as they were playing cowboys at his grandmother's house, an inquest was told yesterday. Dr Douglas Chambers, the coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Lee O'Brien, of Croydon, south London.

Lift attack man dies

A grandfather died yesterday, a week after being beaten up and robbed of his car keys by youths in a lift. The youths set about Fred Carter, 64, as he took the lift to his flat in a block in New Cross, southeast London, after he held the lift door open for them. They started kicking and punching him as the lift went up, then took his car keys and fled.

Jury told of Irish views

An Englishman accused of storing Semtex explosives and bomb equipment made no secret of his support for a united Ireland, a colleague told the Old Bailey yesterday. Vincent Wood, 29, from east London, has denied conspiring to cause explosions and possession of explosives with intent to endanger life or damage property. The trial continues today.

Prison doctor charged

A prison doctor was yesterday charged with manslaughter after an inmate died in a medical wing. Terrence Smyth, 22, who was sentenced to six years for robbery in May last year, died at Elmley Prison on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, on March 23. Dr Leonard Cook, of Sheerness, will appear before Sittingbourne magistrates on August 9.

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Bishop backs vicar jailed for abusing girl 20 years ago

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CHURCH of England bishop has criticised as "unjust and inappropriate" the jailing of a close adviser for sexually abusing a teenage girl 20 years ago.

Patrick Dennis, a vicar who is an ecumenical adviser to the Right Rev David Lum, the Bishop of Sheffield, was jailed for four months yesterday after admitting indecently assaulting the girl over a two-year period, beginning when she was 14. The attacks came to light when the girl, now aged 34, went to police after publicity over a child abuse case last year.

After the hearing at Bedlington, Northumberland, Dr Lum said in a statement: "I greatly regret all the hurt that has come from these events, but I do not believe that a sentence of imprisonment was just or appropriate." He said that the future of Dennis, who has been his adviser for 11 years, rested with the Archbishop of York. "My own belief is that it would be a sad waste of his many gifts if he could not continue to serve in some capacity as a minister of the church, but of course those decisions now rest in the future."

Dennis, 48, who has been rector of Brantwell, South Yorkshire, since 1991, admitted a series of indecent assaults between February 1973 and August 1975 when he was curate of St Mary the Virgin in Ponteland, Northumberland. He was married with two young children at the time.

Harold Dodds, the presiding magistrate, rejected a plea from Tim Parkin, for the defence, that Dennis had led a blameless life for the last 20 years and should be entitled to the same mercy as a layman. Mr Dodds said he had blatantly betrayed a special trust. He had been held in high esteem in the community where he captained the rugby club and was a member of the amateur dramatics group.

At least two of the incidents had taken place in the girl's home, once while her mother was in another part of the house. "In those circumstances, only a custodial sentence is appropriate," Mr Dodds said. Gerry Sydenham, for the prosecution, said Dennis had met the girl through the church youth club. He visited her home regularly for tea with her parents. "She has been caused a huge amount of distress over a long period and is still now coming to terms with the consequences of his actions to her."

The victim told the court: "At the time I was a very confused young teenager who was sexually aware, but I knew it should not be with a priest." She said he would touch and fondle her and lie on top of her, simulating intercourse. "One minute he was doing all this to me and the next I was standing at the altar with his wife and children."

Dennis' wife Claire broke down in tears at the sentence. After the hearing, she said: "I and my children are profoundly shocked by the sentence passed on my husband. We continue to support him in every way."

Dr Lum: "I greatly regret all the hurt"

Road takes strain as Euro train hitches lift

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A £28 MILLION train destined to speed Britain into the next century caused traffic hold-ups yesterday when it made an undignified entrance into the country on the back of a lorry.

The shark-nosed Eurostar train, which will one day speed passengers from London to Paris in two and a half hours, yesterday was borne at only snail's pace on a low loader towards the Birmingham workshops of Metro-Cammell to be made rail-worthy.

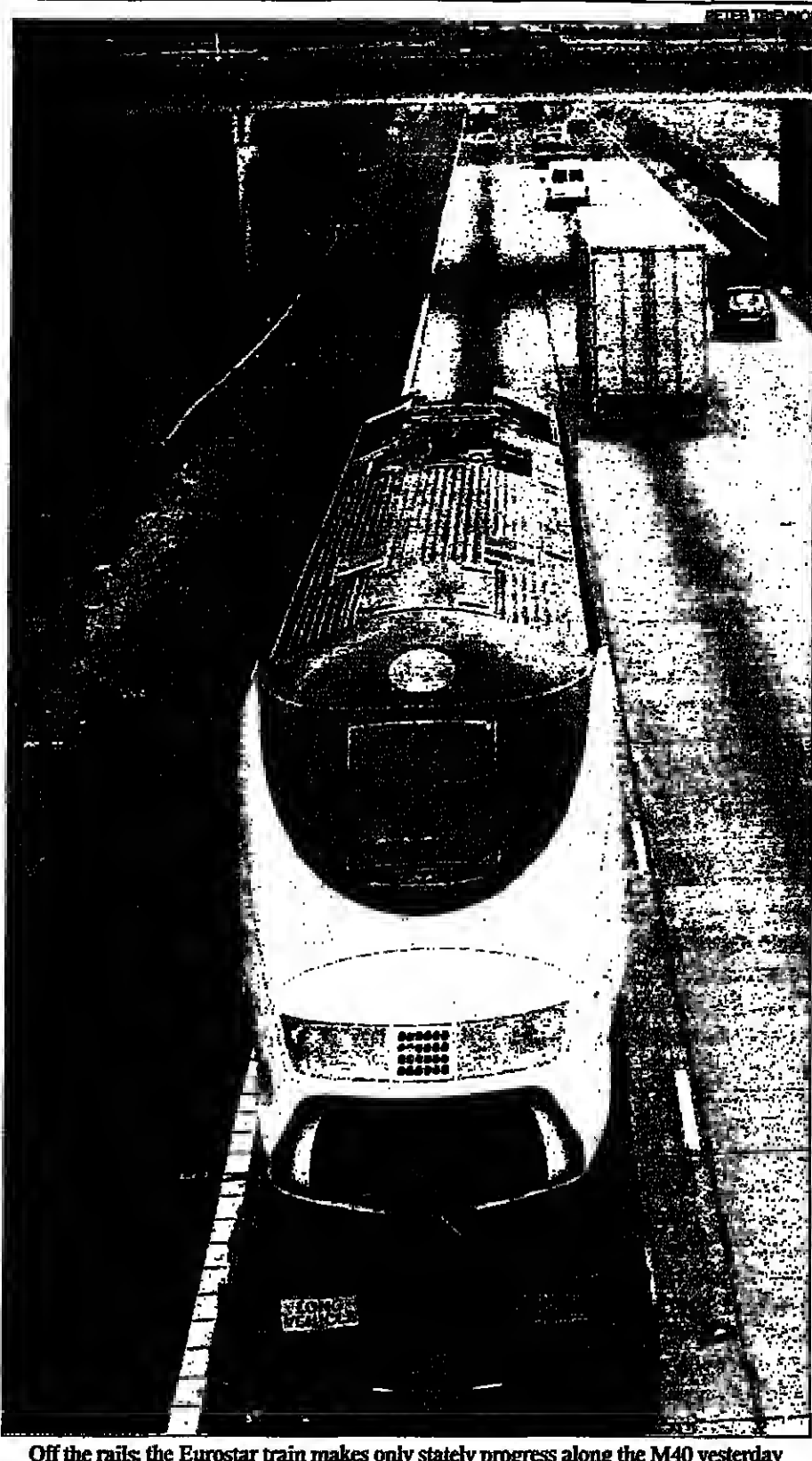
After arriving by ferry at Dover, the train which will be capable of 180mph, had to make the journey by road because the bend in the rails at Dover docks is so acute that the engine, at 100 ft, would have been derailed.

Faced with at least 30 more such journeys, the residents of Dover have already started writing angry letters about the chaos the operation is causing as the giant trundles past their homes.

Motorists on the Medway bridge and the Dartford crossing came to a halt as the road took up the entire road. Other tailbacks occurred on its 180-mile crawl from Kent, through Surrey towards the Midlands as motorists slowed down to witness the sight. Flanked by police escorts, the 80-tonne load could reach a maximum of 35mph even on the M1.

A Surrey police spokesman said: "It is an odd sight seeing one of the fastest trains in the world crawling along on the back of a lorry."

The slow progress probably caused amusement to President Mitterrand who recently delivered a mild rebuke to Britain over its slow progress in building the Channel tunnel rail link.



Off the rails: the Eurostar train makes only stately progress along the M40 yesterday

Teacher 'sacked for stressing three Rs'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TEACHER who claimed he was sacked because he used traditional three Rs methods yesterday told a tribunal his new "modern" headmaster ordered that dictionaries, Bibles and atlases be thrown into a skip.

Jack Smith, 60, was fired from New Milton Junior School, Hampshire, in April last year for alleged professional incompetence. He claimed that his dismissal after 13 years came because his views on education clashed with the school's new head teacher, John Crisp.

Mr Smith told the tribunal at Southampton yesterday that Mr Crisp ordered a skip shortly after his arrival. Mr Smith said: "Books, Bibles, atlases and globes were all thrown out. Mr Crisp said 80 dictionaries had to go to the tip, but I tried to save them. There were 370 other books in the classroom. He wanted me to get rid of them, so I gave them to the children."

He said he always set homework for his class even though it was left up to individual teachers to do so. "On the first day of school I would write to parents and tell them that I intended to give it and 99 per cent of them were in favour. I would set them 10 questions a night, even though the headmaster only wanted me to give them one question."

Mr Smith, a teacher for 25 years, said he clashed with the new head shortly after he took over at the school. "Crisp criticised me all the time. He was in my classroom every day asking me what my aims and objectives were."

The headmaster said that after Mr Crisp took over, Christmas was "watered down", classroom Christmas parties no longer took place, there was no nativity scene and the children stopped going to church. "I think children should go to church at least once a term. All we had after he took over was a Christmas tree."

Mr Smith said he was a strong advocate of times tables. "Mr Crisp told me that it did not fit in with the national curriculum and I was breaking the law by teaching them their eight times table."

"Crisp started to criticise me very early on. He talked a lot of jargon and airy-fairy language but I could never pin him down on anything."

Instead of sitting the children in rows, Mr Crisp wanted them set in groups. I tried sitting them in groups with some of them with their backs to me but I found the standard of education was dropping, so I went back to straight rows."

Mr Smith accused Mr Crisp of introducing "trendy teaching methods in a dogmatic and dictatorial style". The tribunal continues.

Teenage vandal cleared of murder

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGER who stabbed to death a man who saw him slashing car tyres whooped with delight yesterday when he was cleared of murder and manslaughter.

To gasps of shock from the public gallery, a jury at the Central Criminal Court acquitted Joseph Elliott, 19, of Streatham, south London. He had taken drink and drugs, and claimed that he acted in self-defence when Mr Osborne approached him with a hammer last December.

Robert Osborne, 41, a musician, gave chase after seeing Mr Elliott slash his neighbours' car tyres. His wife, Diana, 38, left court crying. She said: "This has broken the whole family. How can this happen? He was the kindest man I ever met."

Det Insp Frank Sole said afterwards: "I am stunned. I just do not think the verdict is right. To think you can do that and walk away is absolutely dreadful."

Anne Rafferty QC, for the prosecution, said Mr and Mrs

Osborne were watching a lunar eclipse from their garden when they heard Mr Elliott slashing car tyres.

They gave chase until Mrs Osborne suggested calling the police, but her husband said it was pointless because they would not come. He then went back to the council estate where his wife had last seen Mr Elliott.

After a confrontation on a balcony, it was alleged that Mr Elliott leaped over the balcony and shouted to Mrs Osborne: "I'll do you like I've just done your old man." Her husband then collapsed and died shortly afterwards in hospital.

Mr Elliott, who has previous convictions including arson, theft and robbery, admitted vandalising cars on the estate. But he said he did not mean to hurt Mr Osborne and panicked when he threatened him with the hammer. "I did not mean to hurt him. I was frightened," he told the court.

Struck-off lawyer stole 'millions'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE former head of one of the biggest law firms in the South East, has cost the Law Society compensation fund £3.6 million and claims of up to £6 million are pending.

Graham Durnford Ford, 50, whose dishonest conduct was described by the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal as of "massive proportions", has also been held bankrupt with potential liabilities of £7.2m.

But the tribunal, which struck-off the self-styled "visionary" solicitor yesterday, saying he was a "disgrace" to his profession, said it had been told it was too early to predict what the final shortage of funds would be.

Mr Durnford Ford resigned in June last year after an investigation was launched into his former firm, Durnford Ford in Hastings, East Sussex. His dishonesty involved fictitious billing of clients and was to be counted in millions of pounds, said the tribunal in London said.

Russian road-hog tries to ram royal car

By ALAN HAMILTON AND ANNE MCLEOD IN MOSCOW

SHOTS were fired when a car tried to intercept the Princess Royal's convoy as it drove through Moscow last Saturday. It was disclosed yesterday, but the incident appears to have been not so much an attempt on her life as a demonstration of Russian road etiquette.

The princess, accompanied by her husband Commander Tim Laurence, was being driven to the airport in the early morning to begin a visit to republics of the former Soviet Union. At a busy intersection on the outer ring road, a light beige Zhiguli saloon with no number plates sped in from

the side and cut into the motorcade near the large black Zil limousine bearing the princess.

Police shouted at the intruder through a loudhailer, but the Zhiguli took no notice. Police then fired shots at its tyres and the car made off in the direction of St Petersburg before police could apprehend the driver.

The incident came to light in the Moscow newspaper *Communist* yesterday, under the laconic headline: "Attempt to battery-ram Princess Anne's car."

The newspaper did not know who the assailant was, identifying him only as "a person from the Caucasus". Muscovites will interpret such

a description as deeply pejorative. The princess doubtless had a fleeting vision of the attempt on her life in The Mall in 1974, when her car was stopped by a would-be assailant who fired several shots and wounded her detective, James Beaton.

A spokesman for Moscow's notoriously inefficient traffic department said yesterday that the attack was no slur on the princess's popularity in Moscow. "It is almost certain that the driver intended to attack a high official from our country, not yours," he said.

Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that a car had tried to cross the royal convoy, but had been well behind the princess's limousine and had not tried to ram it. In Moscow, a British embassy official said there had never been any danger to the princess, her husband, or anyone else in the convoy.

People drive here in ways that would boggle your mind. They have absolutely no idea of lane discipline, and somebody weaving in and out of convoys is no big deal. He may have been curious to see who was in the Zil. The fact that the police fired a shot did not make it a serious incident," the official said.

Since leaving Moscow, the royal couple have been enjoying more civilised driving conditions, by horse and canal, in the emptiness of Mongolia.

Boulevard enchants eye and ear

IF we are debating the merits of musicals about Hollywood, I must admit to a preference for *City of Angels*, whose premature closure was announced yesterday. It has a wit and sophistication some way beyond *Sunset Boulevard*, which opened on Monday night at the Adelphi with an advance of zillions. But, not surprisingly, Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest has its music too. It is often gorgeous to look at, sometimes enchanting to hear, and, more than most of his works, merits the century-long run it may well achieve.

Sunset Boulevard is not charabanc chic like *Starlight Express* or the overblown revival of *Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The obvious comparison is with *Phantom of the Opera*, a more serious, more imposing and in every sense more haunting musical. Once again the protagonist is an egomaniac, lovelorn and murderous, reclusive who glides down vast staircases like a long-forgotten ghost. It could even be said that Patti



BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

in Anderson plays Joe Gillis, a writer down at his heels and on his luck. He is more affable, more rumpled and less cynical than William Holden in the film, but never the least bland. And LaPone is Norma Desmond, the silent-screen star ("I am big, it's the pictures that have got small") whose screenwriter, support, lover and creature he successively becomes.

Their doomed affair is the main business of the evening, interspersed with snippets from Anderson's far skimpier romance with an aspiring writer partly played by Meredith Braun. LaPone would seem too young and appealing for the Gloria Swanson role. But she combines pride and scornful charisma with a vulnerability that actress missed. The impression is of a majestic wait, yearning for a comeback she knows in her heart is impossible; and at the end, when the performer's gold turban and red wig give way to a balding scalp, she achieves genuine pathos.

Trevor Nunn, who directs, and John Napier, who de-

signs, have a long history of collaboration; but have they ever come up with a more striking setting than the mighty Desmond pad? It is a wonderfully elaborate jumble of Tudor-Manor manor, a gleaming mix of banisters, candles, organ-pipes, cork-screw arches and exotic fretwork. The scene in which a suicidal LaPone paces her gaudy wilderness, while film people in Californian garb glibly salute the New Year, says more about loneliness and failure than all Black and Hampton's lyrics, capable though they are.

And Lloyd Webber's score? Some of the linking passages have a韶乐, lump-a-lump predictability; but there are more attractive melodies here than in any other of his musicals to date. Listen to LaPone singing "With One Look" or "New Ways to Dream" with that wistful clarity of hers. For all its excellence, *City of Angels* cannot match that.

This review appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday.

Box office overrides critics' mixed views

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

YESTERDAY's first-night reviews of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* were a mixed bag, with judgements ranging from "pedestrian and drab" to genuinely triumphant. Sir Andrew does not care what they say: he need not worry — box-office success in London is guaranteed, with millions of pounds in ticket sales already.

But with news that another West End musical, *Elegies for Angels*, Punks and Raging Queens at the Criterion, is to close after less than a month, the reviewers are more powerful than ever before. Frank Rich, theatre critic for The

New York Times, was keeping his verdict close to his chest. His review will have an effect on the show's success when it opens in America, and he was keen to read the British critics.

Those who had misgivings concede that the dramatic intensity picked up in the second half. "The show resurrects itself to heights of genuine triumph," according to Jack Tinker in the *Daily Mail*.

Charles Spencer, of *The Daily Telegraph*, goes further: "For the first half it looked as though Andrew Lloyd Webber might have an artistic flop... Right up to the interval *Sunset Boulevard* repeatedly failed to catch fire." But Lloyd Webber's flair sets the show alight, creating a climactic final scene. Man-

reen Paton, of the *Daily Express*, says the music disappoints in hummability terms. Nicholas de Jongh, for the *London Evening Standard*, says it contains only two memorable numbers.

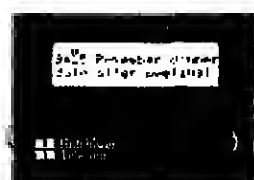
The direction is praised for its technical achievement, and condemned for its lack of pace. Mr Tinker writes: "That the result seems something less than the sum of so many glowing parts is due mainly to a loss of strong focus on the part of director Trevor Nunn."

The critics happily agree on two star points: a summing performance from Patti LaPone, and the lavishly baroque central set by John Napier.

Peter Brookes, page 16



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Stress forces more teachers to take early retirement

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CLASSROOM stress and a continuing squeeze on budgets are the prime causes of a sharp rise in early retirements among teachers since the start of the 1980s, a head teachers' association reports today.

Early retirements due to ill-health have almost tripled in the past 14 years, according to figures provided by the Teachers' Pensions Agency. Over the same period, the number leaving the profession in efficiency drives before the age of 60 has leapt by 450 per cent.

In the last year, more than 12,000 teachers have taken early retirement in the interests of efficiency or have been made redundant: in 1979-80, the figure was fewer than 3,500. The proportion of teachers serving to the normal retirement age has dropped from 57 per cent to 20 per cent.

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), which is publishing the figures, said that the scale of early retirement was deeply disturbing. "The non-stop pace of reform and the strain placed on school budgets is taking far too heavy a toll of experienced staff that schools can ill-afford to lose."

"These are urgent messages, not least for the government, which has presided over a deteriorating situation and which is largely responsible for the present fragile state of the education service, not least in the crucial areas of teacher retention, motivation and mo-

rale." A recent survey in Cleveland showed that one in six teachers had been absent at some time during the year because of stress-related illness and the same proportion had also sought professional help. Almost half of the teachers in the county's survey felt that the stress of their job had increased since 1991-92.

The most prominent cause was the amount of change in the education system. Pupils' behaviour, which had been the main concern in previous surveys, had been relegated to third place. A similar survey in the Grampian district of Scotland found even higher levels of stress: it also placed much of the blame on educational change.

The authority's education psychologists reported that more than a third of primary teachers were suffering from occupational stress, exhibiting

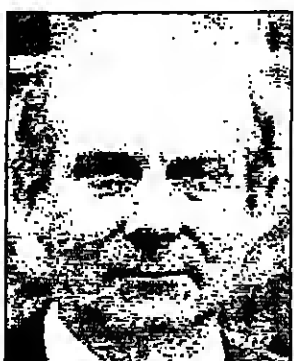
signs of tension and an inability to relax after work.

John Patten, the education secretary, has acknowledged that the pace of change in schools is putting extra pressure on teachers and has promised a period of stability. But he warned the association last month that the curriculum would be subject to further evolution, beginning with the changes that will flow from Sir Ron Dearing's review, which is due to be published at the end of the year.

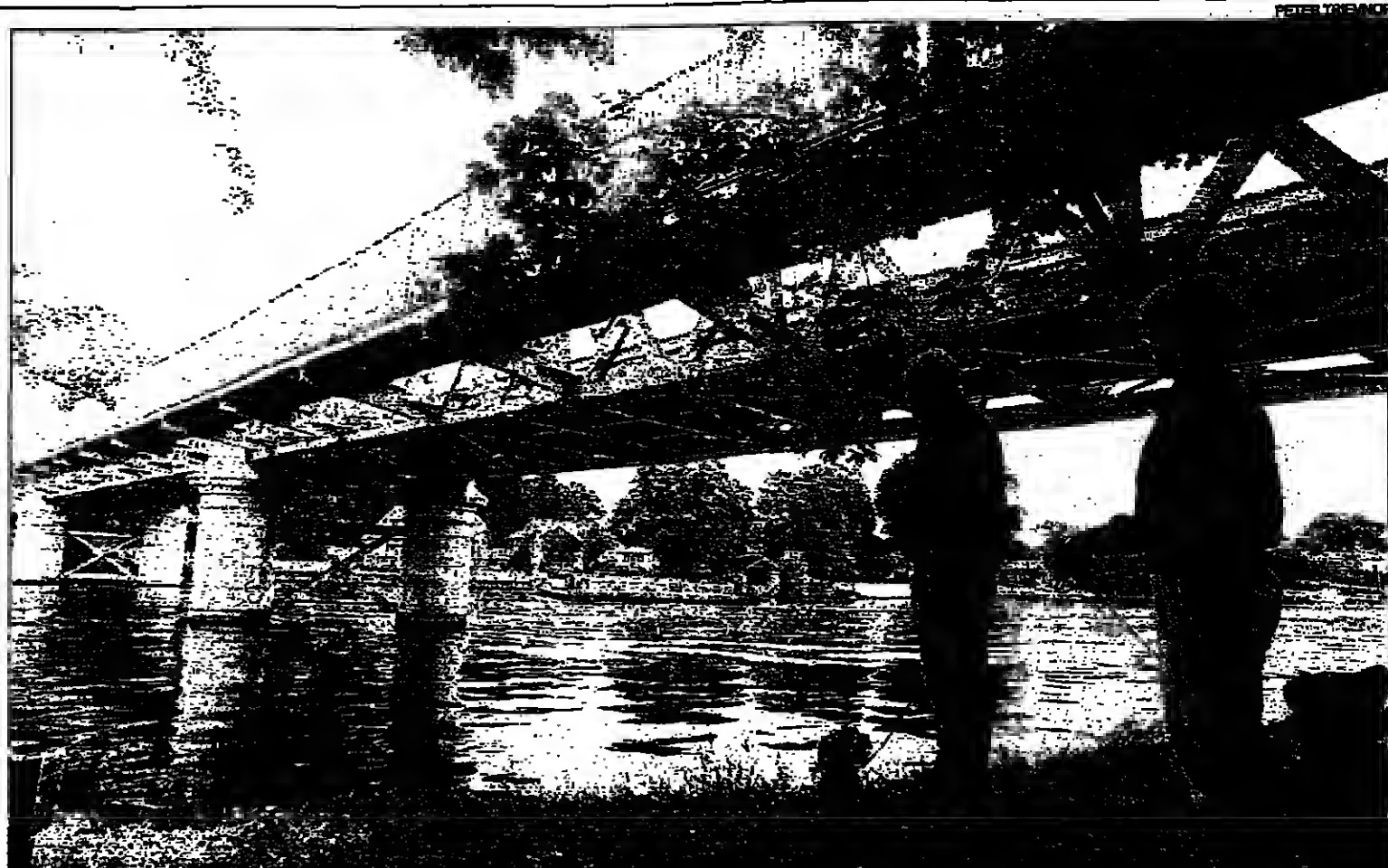
Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokeswoman, said: "These statistics provide alarming confirmation of what we all know from our own experience. Some of our most conscientious teachers are leaving education, and the government's failure to listen to the concern of parents, governors and teachers only makes matters worse."

Alan Parker, the education officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said that many redundancies were the result of local reorganisation designed to cut out surplus school places. With the school population beginning to rise again, the scale of job losses should drop, unless there was a new squeeze on school budgets.

The National Union of Teachers, which cited increasing levels of stress when making its last pay claim, said that its members were being forced out by budget cuts and disillusionment.



Hart criticised pace of "non-stop reform"



Worth waiting for: the bridge from Bourne End to Cookham replaces a ferry service scrapped in 1959 and saves a lengthy diversion

Gap in Thames path is bridged at last

By NICHOLAS WATT

WALKERS using the Thames path will welcome today's opening of a footbridge across the river which, after 34 years, ends the need for a diversion of two and a half miles.

The £205,000 bridge was funded by the Countryside Commission and is an extension of a rail bridge linking Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, and Cookham, Berkshire. It replaces a ferry service withdrawn in 1959.

Margaret Bowdery, secretary of the East Berkshire Ramblers Association,

who has been walking in the area for nearly 30 years, said: "This is going to make a tremendous difference. It cuts out a long dangerous section of road which locals avoided for years by risking their lives to walk across the railway bridge."

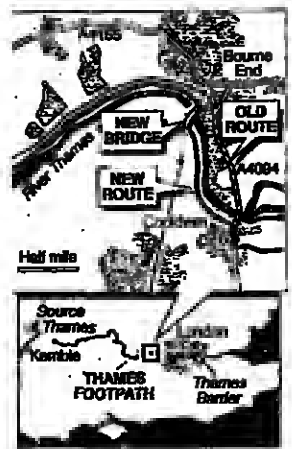
Walkers would not be the only group to benefit from the crossing. Mrs Bowdery said. Others included fishermen, boaters, residents and "those who just enjoy visiting the countryside".

Sir John Johnson, chairman of the Countryside Commission who will open the footbridge today, said: "We are

delighted that this important new link in the Thames Path National Trail is complete. Now people can walk in safety from Marlow to Cookham."

The 215-mile Thames path, which stretches from the source of the river in Gloucestershire to the flood barrier at Charlton in east London, is due to be finished in 1995.

A commission report today shows overwhelming public support for the path. In a survey of 1,004 people living near the river, 97 per cent said they were in favour of the path and 75 per cent had used it at some point.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Man denies murder of barmaid

A barmaid who allowed a prisoner on home leave to stay with her may have already been dead when he tied a ligature around her neck, a jury was told.

A pathologist told Winchester Crown Court that Jayne Harvell, 26, may have died from asphyxiation caused by being hit with a frying pan. Malcolm Smith, 41, has denied murdering Miss Harvell last summer in Bournemouth. The trial continues.

Shotgun death

Michael Stubbs, 48, a farmworker from Swayfield, Lincolnshire, died after a shotgun fired accidentally inside a car and the blast went through the door into his stomach.

JP stole

John Angus, 39, a magistrate from Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was given a four-month suspended prison sentence after admitting stealing £1,400 from his scout group.

DIY blaze

Eight neighbours and Norman Baker, 65, were made homeless when he set fire to their flats in Hill Head, Hampshire, while stripping against a blowlamp.

School burns

Teachers gave first aid to a roofer who suffered 20 per cent burns after spilling a bucket of bitumen at a school in Dudley, West Midlands.

Unlucky strike

Firemen called to South Wing Hospital, Bedford, used cutting gear to help a girl aged 12 who had a thumb stuck in a ten-pin bowling ball.

Plastic peril of scrapped vehicles threatens to overwhelm Britain

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is in danger of being engulfed by millions of tonnes of waste from scrapped cars, according to a report published yesterday.

Euromotor, Reports, the leading City analysts, want a United Nations commission, similar to that which operates in the nuclear industry, to oversee the worldwide recycling and dismantling of cars.

They say urgent action is needed to force car-makers to co-operate to stem the rapid increase in the use of materials, particularly plastics, which have to be dumped in landfill sites.

Karl Ludvigsen, Euromotor managing director, said: "We call most urgently for a summit meeting of the car-maker associations of America, Japan, Europe and South Korea to review the situation and take action. The car-makers are tough competitors, but co-operation between them is essential."

The report predicts that by 2010, one year's plastics from vehicles worldwide — such as those used in dashboards,

seats and fuel tanks — will form a mountain of waste equivalent to the entire tonnage of about eight million cars scrapped in the 1950s.

About two million vehicles were scrapped in Britain in 1990, which left 700,000 tonnes of waste from shredders; of that, 100,000 tonnes was plastic, which was mostly disposed of in dumps.

Car-makers have found themselves in an environ-

mental trap, using more plastics to save weight, increase fuel economy and thus cut tailpipe emissions.

From making up 2 per cent of a car's weight 50 years ago, about 100 different types of plastics now account for 12 per cent and Euromotor estimates that the amount of plastic residue will double before the end of this century.

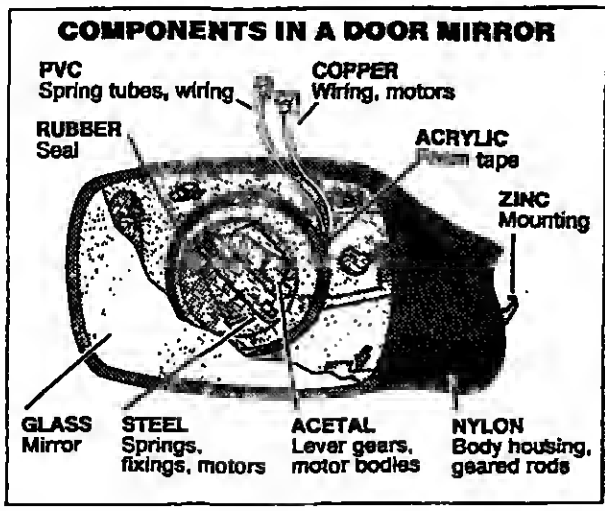
Waste materials can only be recycled if they are recovered

at the scrap stage and Euromotor wants the commissioning of hundreds of dismantling centres capable of stripping cars into their usable components.

Designers are already working on cars for sale in ten years' time and the report says the message on using plastics only where essential has to be fed back to manufacturers. "Cars being designed today, new models which will join the waste stream 20 years from now, must be significantly easier to recycle and must contain a markedly high proportion of recycled material."

With landfill sites running out and fears growing over the potential contamination caused by some plastics, Euromotor urges rapid government action so that the best environmental plan can be drawn up. That could include tax incentives for companies to start incineration sites, burning off plastic components to provide electricity.

Euromotor says: "Europe desperately needs to find the 17 per cent solution, the right way to deal with the 17 per cent of automobile waste which is not readily recyclable."



Burgers buy the East End a school for truants

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

A CLASH of cultures resounded through the first British school to be named after an international fast food chain at yesterday's opening of the Burger King Academy on the Isle of Dogs in London Docklands.

Martyn Lewis, the BBC newscaster, heralded the good news of an American-style partnership between the hamburger company, representing business, and Tower Hamlets education authority, public sector recipients of a £50,000 cheque to renovate a

building in which to teach teenage truants. He was aided by an endorsement from a 17-year-old American rescued from the mean streets of Miami by a Florida project on which the British scheme is modelled.

Nigel Wright, whose smile revealed a gold front tooth decorated with a white heart, said: "The academy showed me my many talents. I am a great speaker, a great leader and a great writer, at times. Students really feel that staff members care for them and really love them." The former high school drop-out, flown in for the

opening, now intends to be a doctor and part-time playwright. It was an earnest Dutch journalist who brought the launch to a halt by asking what the state education system had come to when it relied on hamburger money to provide facilities.

Anne Sofer, chief education officer for Tower Hamlets, took up the challenge. "I am a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, which made its money out of cars. If it is appropriate for Nuffield to donate laboratories to ancient universities, then I can't see why it is not appropriate for Burger

King to give money to help children at risk in school."

Tower Hamlets receives the one-off cheque plus £10,000 a year to supplement the academy's £250,000 running costs. About two dozen 15 and 16-year-olds who have dropped out of mainstream schools will receive intensive tuition for their GCSE examinations in plush new surroundings.

Ms Sofer made clear that they would not be rewarded for attendance by the offer of free hamburgers, an innovation in one of the 26 Burger King academies in America. "I do not think that is appropriate here."

Police give clues to stolen cars

By RONALD FAIR

POLICE in Manchester, where car crime cost £54 million last year and buyers were unwittingly duped out of more than £3 million, published advice yesterday on how to spot a stolen vehicle.

A leaflet called "The Car Buyer's Guide" gave a checklist which anyone tempted by a private bargain should run through before parting with money. Det Insp Ken Caldwell, of the Greater Manchester police stolen vehicle squad, said organised gangs were stealing to order and under-world contacts could provide unscrupulous buyers with a £25,000 Range Rover for £5,000. The 57,880 cars stolen in Manchester accounted for a quarter of all car crime in Britain last year.

Buyers are advised to strike the deal at the seller's home; see the vehicle during the day; avoid "between 5pm and 9pm" adverts which could relate to a public call box; check whether the registration number seems newer than the car; look for dealer stickers and check whether the engine and registration numbers match.

Cervantes endures new tilt at old literary windmill

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

FRANCIS Bacon was not only the author of Shakespeare's plays, but also wrote *Don Quixote*, the greatest novel in the Spanish language, according to a forthcoming book by an Elizabethan scholar.

The claim that Bacon and Shakespeare were one and the same is a familiar and largely discredited one, but the suggestion that he was also Cervantes is a new tilt at an old literary windmill.

Bacon and Shakespeare scholars alike rejected the claims yesterday, but the book, *Who wrote Don Quixote?*, by Francis Carr, an historian and unorthodox Shakespeare scholar, will add fuel to the current authorship controversy over the supposed discovery of a new Shakespeare play by an American documents expert.

Mr Carr, of the Shakespeare Authorship Information Centre in Brighton, has made a comparative study of plays by Shakespeare, the Bacon notebook in the British Library, compiled in 1945, and the translation of *Don Quixote* by Thomas Shelton, published in 1612. He claims to

have discovered more than 30 phrases in all three which coincide exactly.

"At night all cats are grey" in Shelton is echoed in Bacon and Shakespeare, for example. Other coincidences include "revealing-day through every cranny spies" in *The Rape of Lucrece*; Bacon's version is "revealing day through every cranny peepers"; and the Shelton is similar.

Mr Carr says these were not "stock-in-trade" phrases because, in 30 years of searching, he has been unable to find them in other Elizabethan plays. Mr Carr concludes that the same man was author of all three. "There are over 1,600 phrases in Bacon's notebook and lots of them are in Shakespeare's plays. It would be a coincidence if these turned up in Shelton once or twice, but not to this extent. The phrases show a genius which could not be imitated."

Mr Carr also believes the English *Don Quixote* came first. In a plot to cover Bacon's tracks, the manuscript was translated into Spanish and attributed to Cervantes.

Bacon needed a disguise, Mr Carr maintains, because he was the illegitimate son of Queen Elizabeth I. More than 35 times within the novel, Cervantes refers to the "real" author, naming him as Sid Hamet Benengeli. Mr Carr said: "Sid means lord in Arabic, ben means son, and engeli probably means 'of England'."

But Mr Carr's theories have been ridiculed by orthodox scholars. Peter Beale, a Sotheby's expert, said: "Bacon collected proverbs and aphorisms as examples of excellent wit. It was a derivative and imitative literature."



Shakespeare: the man of La Mancha?

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Synod averts big defections to Rome over women priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SCHISM in the Church of England was averted yesterday when the General Synod of the Church of England gave an unexpectedly warm welcome to far-reaching concessions for opponents of women priests.

The prospect of widespread defections to the Roman Catholic Church receded after the synod, meeting in York, backed an "act of synod" which makes provisions for opponents to stay within the church.

The two-hour debate, the first opportunity to gauge the wider response to plans for three new bishops, "provisional episcopal visitors", lacked the acrimony of previous debates on women priests. The synod is expected formally to approve the act when it meets again in November.

The act will have moral but not legal authority, and some opponents still believe their future in the church will only be guaranteed if the act is enshrined in legislation. But legislation is unlikely, and the act of synod is a concession which marks a sea-change in the church, from a position where many supporters of women priests left opponents

Anglican bishops meeting in York gave a warm welcome to measures designed to placate traditionalists among the clergy

should either accept their ministry or leave.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said: "I hope that the very enthusiastic welcome given by the synod to the bishops' proposals will encourage the majority of clergy to see that they really have a future in the Church of England."

The Rev Peter Geldard, chairman of the synod's Catholic Group, said many opponents had already left quietly. He predicted that up to 250 clergy would still try to become Roman Catholic priests. "If the Roman option starts to work in practice, over four or five years it could become more attractive."

Mr Geldard accused the Church of England of shifting in a "clear Protestant direction". He said the lessons from Canada and the United States, where women have been ordained for many years, were that the pressure on the minority group of opponents would grow. But the consensus behind the scenes as the synod ended

yesterday was that most opponents would decide to stay in the church in the breathing space gained by yesterday's welcome.

Financial pressures are thought to have contributed to the bishops' willingness to go so far to accommodate opponents. However, many women are angered at what they see as a betrayal of last November's vote to ordain them.

Dr Habgood said the bishops had learnt over backwards for opponents. He told the synod: "The popular fantasy is of bishops sitting around twiddling their thumbs, desperately trying to put together something that the chaps might buy. I hope that image has been dispelled."

Dr Habgood said there had been loose talk about "cobbling together compromises, fudging the issues". Living in unity while respecting differences was not easy.

"The majority who rejoice in this legislation have to recognise that there are both Catholics and evangelicals

who feel deeply threatened by it." He added that no one could guarantee particular ordinands would be accepted or senior appointments made. "The most anybody can say is that there will be no discrimination."

The creation of three new episcopal sees would entail some cost but was "enormously cheaper" than having to meet the cost of clergy who might otherwise seek financial compensation and leave.

The tone of the ensuing debate was set when the Archbishop of Leicester, the Ven David Silk, who led the opposition to women priests at the synod last November, backed the act. The church's mission need not be soured by the decision to ordain women, he said. "Here we have the opportunity to live together."

The Bishop of Salisbury, Dr John Baker, said he could not support the proposals. He questioned whether both those in favour and those against could hold "legitimate" positions after a decisive vote in favour of women priests. Dr Baker said that the act effectively told women: "Of course we can't be as sure about your priesthood as we were about that of the men we ordained for centuries before you." The Provost of Wake-

field, the Very Rev John Allen, said the proposal for three new sees was un-Anglican and "theologically unsound". He said the proposals for new bishops would perpetuate divisions.

Dr Petronella Clarke, an obstetrician from north London, said the act would not be seen to display integrity and backtracked on arrangements agreed "by massive majorities" a few months ago. "It will be seen to change the rules halfway through."

Canon Ruth Wintle, of Worcester, said: "Some women are deeply hurt that they were not given space to rejoice because all the emphasis has been put on the opponents. Some feel they were being blamed for the divisions, and felt guilty to the extent of wondering whether they could stay within the church."

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, and the Vatican are thought to be sympathetic to the "Roman option", but many of England's Roman Catholic laity and bishops oppose an influx of married Anglican clergy over the issue of women priests, especially while their own priests are forced to remain celibate.

CARL RUTHERFORD

Vicar to resign if wife is ordained

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE divisions in the Church of England over women priests threaten to have profound consequences in one Sunderland vicarage.

The Rev Mark Millward is so opposed to the ordination of women that if his wife Caroline, a deacon, succeeds in her efforts to become an ordained Anglican minister, he will quit as a vicar and become a lay Roman Catholic.

However, the rift in the household at Pennywell in Sunderland is purely theological. "If anything it has brought us closer together," said Mr Millward, 51, who has been a priest for eight years. "One of the things our differences show is that it is possible to love someone and continue living with them while respecting their different views."

The couple married five years ago after meeting at St Stephen's theological college, Oxford. Mr Millward ministers to the congregations of St Oswald's and St Thomas' in Pennywell while his 31-year-old wife works at a mental health unit at Sunderland general hospital.

She said: "Far from illustrating the disunity felt by many at this time, I think that our example can be one of hope to others. It shows you can hold differing views and still live together and pray together. There was no question of her sacrificing her calling for the sake of his



Agreeing to disagree: the Rev Mark Millward and his wife Caroline, who is determined to become a priest

views. "That would have been dishonest," she said. "I don't think Mark would have wanted me to do that."

"I see ordination as an extension of the work I do now at the hospital, but as a priest I could perform sacraments that I cannot perform

at the moment. I see it as a broadening and widening of my job as a chaplain."

Mr Millward said: "I have to listen to my conscience and that tells me I cannot remain with the Church of England if women's ordination is approved. I cannot imagine

myself as anything other than a priest, but it's quite possible that I will join the laity."

"It will be a terrible wrench because I have wanted to be in the church since I was about 14. But I think it is so wrong to press ahead in the

way the Church of England is doing that I cannot remain within it."

His wife said: "I do not feel slighted by his decision, far from it. If he has to retain his integrity by moving to another church, then that's what he has to do."

Professor faces jail in Aids blood case

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE head of the East Anglian Regional Blood Transfusion Service has lost his appeal against conviction for distributing Aids-infected blood in France. The regional health authority said that it would be considering Professor Jean-Pierre Allain's future after yesterday's verdict in Paris.

Professor Allain, 50, who stood down as director of the service after his original conviction last year, was sentenced to four years in prison, half of it suspended. He ap-

pealed against both sentence and conviction and now faces up to two years in jail.

The conviction involved the supply of contaminated blood to haemophiliacs in 1985. About 1,200 French haemophiliacs were infected and more than 250 have already died.

An independent enquiry commissioned by the regional health authority and headed by Baroness Warnock has said there is no reason for him not to continue as director.

ITV sticks to a familiar diet

By RICHARD DUCE

ITV unveiled a £173 million autumn programme schedule yesterday aimed at grabbing a bigger share of the young audience. While emphasising a £57 million budget for new drama, the schedule still relies on the security blanket of established soap opera, the Saturday night Hollywood film and old favourites.

Taggart, London's Burning and Heartbeat all make a return in the autumn. Coronation Street and Emmerdale will both have daytime repeats, forcing five minutes to be cut from ITV's lunchtime

news. On Saturday nights, feature films alternate with sporting events such as the boxing world title fight between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank.

New drama will feature Robbie Coltrane in a serious role as a clinical psychologist in Cracker; Dennis Waterman plays an SAS man infiltrating the IRA in Circle of Deceit; while Sean Bean, Amanda Donohoe and Theresa Russell will feature in A Woman's Guide to Adultery.

Saturday nights will continue to have a familiar feel about them. Only a new Steven Spielberg adventure series interludes with the established line-up of Blind Date, Gladiators, The Bill and Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch.

A new sit-com, Downwardly Mobile, features Simon Caddell, Frances de la Tour and Josie Lawrence. Brighton Belles, the British version of The Golden Girls, stars Sheila Hancock, Wendy Craig, Sheila Gish and Jean Boht. The drama series Soldier, Soldier and Prime Suspect both make a return.

Halfway through the five-furlong race, the tempo had started to increase. "I had just about started to take up the running. I had hit the front and was really travelling well when my horse just dropped in front."

"That's all I really know. He went down and he tried to make some sort of recovery as he fell. It was very split second and he just went down. There was no warning at all."

The council denies liability and claims the fall was caused by a spontaneous stress fracture in one of Mandracco's legs. Mr Cook, however, said that there was no sound like a leg breaking before the fall. He believed the horse's leg was broken as other animals hit it as they fell.

Tim Charlton QC, for the three plaintiffs, has told the court that there were voids beneath the turf covering newly installed drains. Stewards were not told of the drainage work and allowed racing to continue until another horse fell on the third day and the meeting was abandoned. The St Leger had to be run later at Ayr.

The hearing is to decide whether the council is liable for damages. Mr Cook is claiming £280,000 in lost earnings and Mr Cochrane, who suffered minor injuries, is seeking £40,000.

Jockey blames fall on racetrack work

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER leading jockey told the High Court yesterday that his riding career ended when his horse fell as it took the lead in a race at Doncaster's St Leger meeting in 1989.

Paul Cook, 47, of Ramsbury, Wiltshire, is suing Doncaster District Council over the accident in which he broke ribs, a collarbone, thumb and foot. He was forced to retire after 23 years in racing, during which he rode 1,500 winners at courses across the world. He claims the horse lost its footing because the ground was disturbed by drainage work before the meeting.

Ray Cochrane, 36, of Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire, another jockey injured in the same fall, and Bernard Hampson, of Birmingham, the horse's owner, are also seeking damages from the council, which owns the South Yorkshire racetrack.

Mr Cook told Mr Justice Drake that he had ridden the horse, Mandracco, twice before the Portland Handicap and had found the six-year-old to be an animal of very good calibre and "one of the toughest old horses in training". Mandracco had seemed perfectly sound at the start.

Halfway through the five-furlong race, the tempo had started to increase. "I had just about started to take up the running. I had hit the front and was really travelling well when my horse just dropped in front."

"That's all I really know. He went down and he tried to make some sort of recovery as he fell. It was very split second

Sponsors shun Fide match

By IAN MURRAY

ANATOLY Karpov and Jan Timman, the two players nominated to play for the Fide world chess championship, have been warned they may not receive the full \$2m (£1.8 million) promised by the game's world governing body when the match was announced last month.

More than half the cash has been guaranteed by the Omani government to stage the second half of the 24-game match. However, the Dutch Chess Federation, which has been asked to organise the first 12 games and to find the

other half of the prize money, has found it extremely difficult to persuade hard-headed businessmen in Amsterdam and Arnhem that the match is worth sponsoring. Timman, the Dutch champion, is ranked only 34th in the world by Fide and was beaten by Nigel Short in qualifying to play Garry Kasparov.

The consequence is that the Dutch federation has found that potential sponsors do not believe they will get value for money by backing a match in September to rival The Times World Chess Championship.

between Kasparov and Short. Sources suggest that only about a quarter of the necessary money has been raised.

The Dutch federation met last night to discuss the cash shortage. Both Timman and Karpov meanwhile have been offered contracts for the match in which they are asked to play the match and not sue Fide for the full promised amount if this is not available.

According to one source, the two players are likely to accept these terms to qualify for the Omani prize money, which is worth more than £1 million.

Doctor says patient's sex claims are fairy tales

A PSYCHIATRIST stopped treating a patient who claims she was forced into sexual intercourse with her GP because he feared she would make unfounded allegations about him, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

The patient, identified only as Ms A, claims she slept with Dr Feramerz Minwalla at least 14 times after he seduced her and because he was a vital legal witness in a custody battle for her children.

Dr Minwalla, 57, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, has denied serious professional misconduct. He described the woman's allegations as Alice in Wonderland stuff.

Dr Stephen Gladwell, a consultant psychiatrist, told the General Medical Council that he stopped visiting Ms A, 37, a psychiatric nurse, "for reasons of self-preservation". He said: "Often our discussions related to her sexual problems, and how inadequate her husband was. There was no specific incident. I just thought it was unwise to see this woman at home, with no other adult present."

Dr Minwalla told the hearing: "You hear talk of patients being vulnerable; well, this is a case of a doctor being vulnerable. I am deeply outraged by her claims. The whole thing is Alice in Wonderland stuff."

He said Ms A was well known as a difficult patient and had tried to commit suicide several times. She had visited his surgery more than 100 times in three years, compared with an average of three or four times a year for most of his patients. "She used to say highly complimentary things about me, like I was her lifeline," he said. "I tried to help her as much as I could."

He dismissed Ms A's claims about his poor sex life, describing his 30-year marriage as just perfect. Further claims that he had worn underpants with three holes in them during one of the sex sessions, which took place between 1986 and 1988, were also untrue. "I would never wear underwear with holes," he said.

Dr Minwalla said he was always scrupulously correct in his treatment of female patients. "These claims are total lies. I resent it bitterly."

The hearing continues.

Contents sale marks nadir of good taste

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
PERSONAL property of Asil Nadir, including the contents of his Eaton Square flat in London, is to be auctioned by Christie's next month. However, only committed souvenir hunters, collectors of watches and connoisseurs of bad taste need apply.

While the plain black briefcase is neutral enough, at £80-£100, and the model of a reclining bloodhound on a marble base is on the margins of good taste (£400-£600), the mounted presentation plaque in the form of a brass relief map of Cyprus (£100-£150) is downright kitsch.

The sale also shows that Michael Manes was not the only person to indulge Mr Nadir's apparent passion for wristwatches. A rolled gold example by Jean d'Eve comes with a card from his son

Birol saying "To Dad, Happy Birthday. Time flies; always use it to the full." Also in the sale is the 18-carat gold Blancpain automatic wrist-watch (£800-£1,200) said to be the one which the former Northern Ireland minister replaced.

The Nadir name is everywhere, even on objects as humble as a pewter hip flask. A music centre bears the pretend brand name Asil Nadir.

Christie's usually omniscient experts are unsure how much the collection will fetch. Three gilt-metal presentation plaques "to Asil Nadir" are estimated at a less than precise £20-£200 while a certificate conferring the honour of Knight Commander of the Sovereign order of the Knights of Malta upon him has been thrown into a part lot (£50-£80).

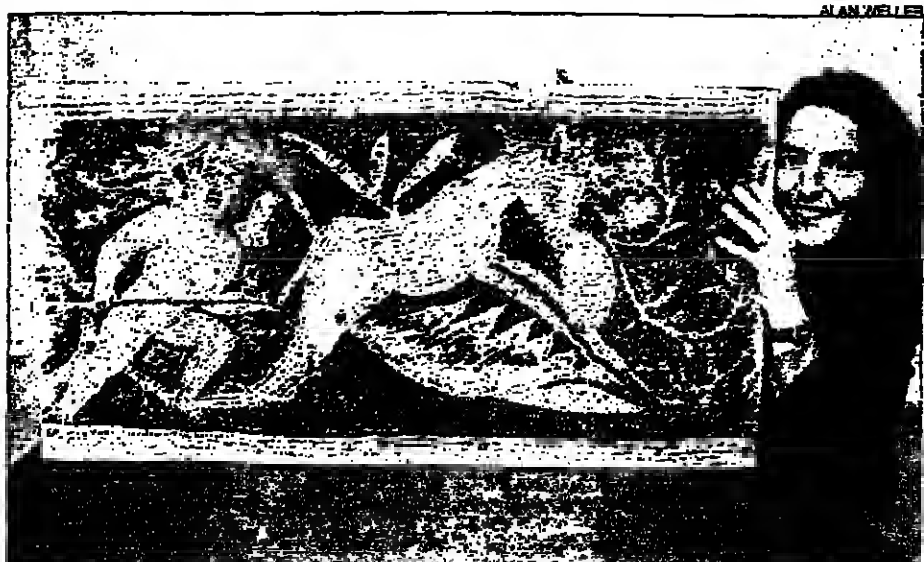
No fewer than five televisions are on sale from the two-bedroom flat, as well as

a collection of videos. Three Havana cigars are on offer, while the Nadir drinks cabinet offers a range of alcoholic beverages from ouzo to Liebfraumilch and Mateus Rose.

The auction, at Christie's South Kensington on August 6, is on behalf of the trustees of Mr Nadir's bankrupt estate.

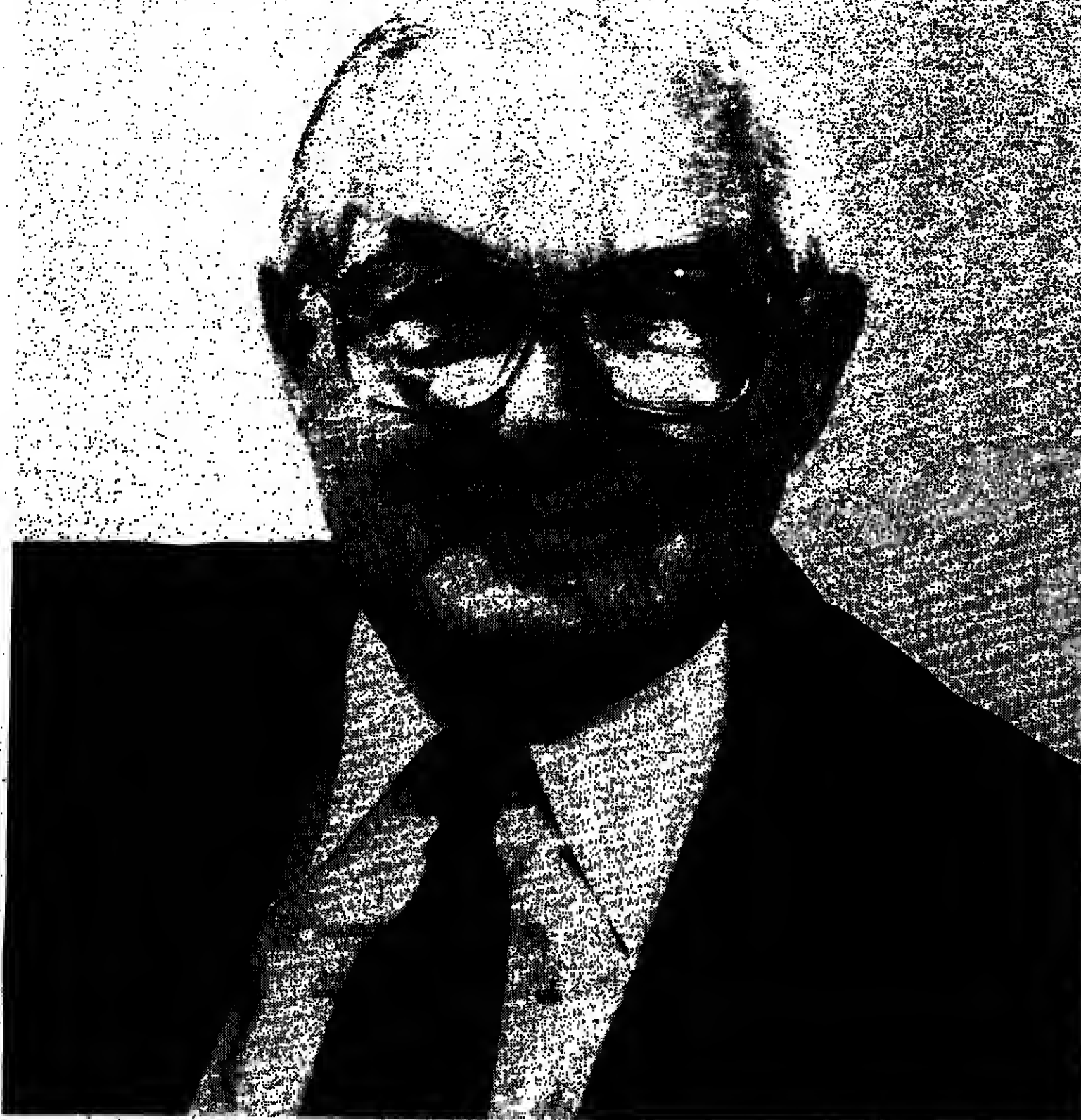
It follows the sale two years ago at Phillips of furniture from the Mayfair offices of his now bankrupt company Polly Peck International. Earlier this month, the Eaton Square flat was put on the market for £12.5 million.

Another auction — of Savile Row suits and 700 ties — has yet to be scheduled. However, art works worth about £3 million, including paintings by the Victorian artist Lord Leighton, have gone missing.



Bargain hunt: Katherine Higgins of Christie's with a mosaic from the Nadir sale

An expert blows the whistle on the Sheehy Report



"The Sheehy Report is a series of dogmatic conclusions backed with very little argument and based upon an inaccurate analysis of the problem. The attitude of its authors can be guessed from the comment: "the time is ripe for taking on the boys and girls in blue." Such an attitude will command no respect either in the Police Service or among the public, and rules out the Report as a serious document.

What is now needed is an objective enquiry by a Royal Commission. This would begin by making a detailed examination of the requirements and the nature of modern policing and, unlike Sheehy, should back its conclusions with detailed argument."

Rt. Hon Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG. Home Secretary 1967-70. Prime Minister 1976-79.

ASK YOUR MP TO OPPOSE THE SHEEHY PROPOSALS

THE POLICE FEDERATION

Whitelaw tells party waverers that Lords revolt is pointless

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

VISCOUNT Whitelaw is to warn Baroness Thatcher and her fellow rebels tonight that they will provoke a "nasty" clash between the Lords and Commons if they push through a referendum amendment to the Maastricht bill.

As the former deputy prime minister and former prime minister prepare to go through opposing division lobbies for the first time, Lord Whitelaw will make a final plea to wavering Tories to think again about the constitutional consequences before backing a national poll.

He will argue that even if the cross-party amendment is passed, John Major and the Commons could not be expected to change their minds and call a referendum on the treaty.

The government's business managers were increasingly confident last night of defeat-

ing the amendment, with estimates of their majority ranging from 50 to 120. About 500 peers are expected to vote, which would be the largest attendance since the poll tax revolt. The debate is expected to last about seven hours, with the vote taking place at about 10pm.

Under pressure from the government's "big guns", namely Lord Whitelaw, Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Carrington, there were signs of irresolution among some Tories who were backing a referendum.

The rebel camp remains optimistic, however, that the case put by Lady Thatcher, Lord Blake, the Tory historian, and Lord Tebbit will win over enough peers to score a victory in the vote, in spite of the three-line whip.

They have amassed a formidable list of 145 potential

rebels from all benches, including the former cabinet ministers Lord Young of Graffham, Lord Parkinson and Baroness Castle of Blackburn. Two are linked to the royal family: Lord Moore of Wolvercote, former private secretary to the Queen, and the racehorse trainer Lord Carnarvon.

In addition, the pro-referendum lobby has won over the leading industrialists Lord Tombs, Lord King of Warrimby, Lord Sharp of Grimsdyke and Lord Haslam.

About 25 Labour peers are likely to defy their party's three-line whip by voting for the cross-party amendment.

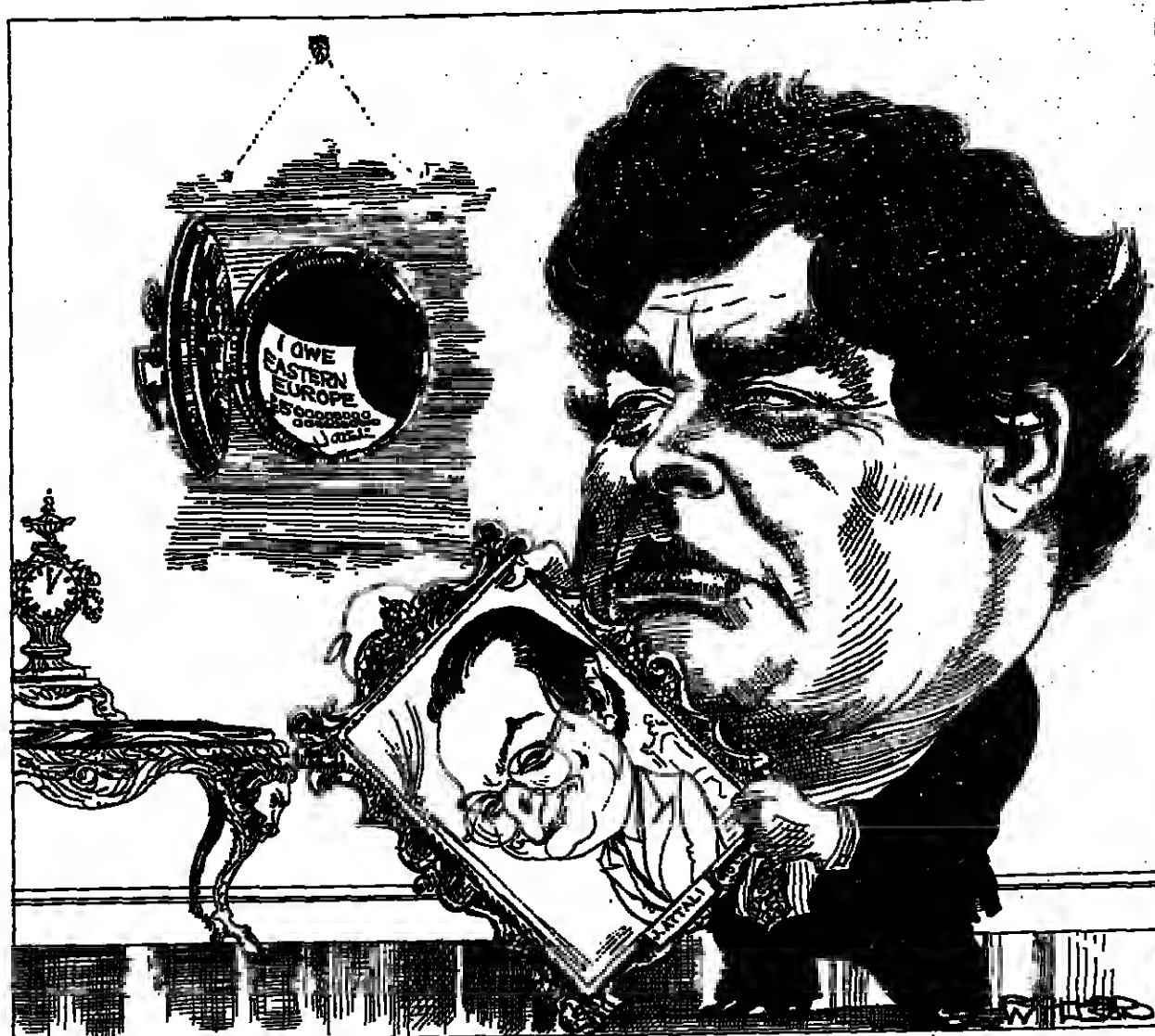
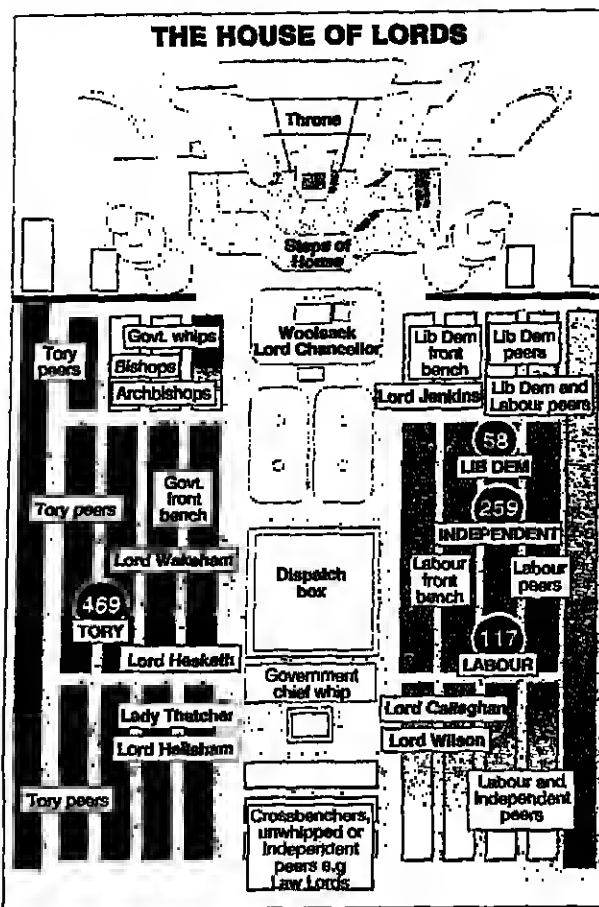
Lord Whitelaw told *The Times* yesterday: "Frankly, if the House of Commons has voted, as it has, by a majority of 239 against a referendum, how can it be believed that they will change their minds if the Lords were to vote for a referendum?"

"Therefore, the only result would be that, if they did vote for a referendum, which I do not believe for a moment they will win, the only possible solution would be, I am afraid, a nasty argument and dispute between the two Houses."

"I do not see how you can expect the Commons just to change their minds when they have voted with such a strong majority not to have one. No prime minister, no government, no House of Commons would be prepared to change their minds like that."

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, confidant of both John Major and his predecessor, yesterday fiercely defended her right to defy the Tory three-line whip by voting for a referendum. Although he will not follow her lead, he said she had every right to give her view. Speaking on the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, Lord Archer said: "People jump up and down and expect her to sit still for the rest of her life saying nothing."

"Margaret Thatcher has been a distinguished prime minister and she feels very strongly on this. Why shouldn't she have her opinion on Maastricht?"



Major backs Lawson for bank president

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

The former Chancellor has emerged as the latest runner in the complex game of horse-trading for leading EC jobs

countries contributing to the bank.

The prime minister's decision to float Lord Lawson's name is part of a complex round of horse-trading going on in Brussels over a number of posts and sites for European institutions. Mr Major has let it be known that he is backing Sir Leon Brittan to succeed Jacques Delors as the European Commission president. In so doing, his objective is to stop one of the fiercest candidates, Felipe Gonzalez of Spain and Wilfried Martens of Belgium, succeeding M Delors next year.

He is also pushing for London to become the home of the European Monetary Institute, the forerunner of the European Central Bank envisaged by the Maastricht treaty. Britain's real goal is

seen in Brussels as being to deny Frankfurt the central bank and to prevent it rivaling the City as a financial centre. Britain would accept a German as head of the EBRD and would be prepared to compromise on Bonn as the site of the EML.

Treasury officials said that Lord Lawson, who resigned as Chancellor in 1989, had a powerful claim on the post. "He has bags of political background and experience of international finance. He has been in the banking world since he left the government and he has a lot of interest in eastern Europe," one said. Downing Street indicated that, with the EBRD sited in the City, it would be difficult for a Briton to secure the presidency.

Lord Lawson is a director of

Barclays Bank and of the GPA Group, but he has not landed the kind of plum City post that he might have expected after his six years as Chancellor, during which he earned an enviable international reputation for his command of economics.

Under M Attali, the bank is alleged to have spent £750,000 on replacing the marble in its headquarters. By the end of 1992, it had spent more than £200 million on its buildings. Only £101 million had been disbursed in loans.

The prime minister's backing for Lord Lawson will surprise Conservative MPs. Shortly after he replaced Lord Lawson as Chancellor in 1989, Mr Major was critical of his predecessor's reign at the Treasury, saying that policy misjudgments in 1987 and 1988 over growth, the stock market crash and mortgage interest tax relief had led to an inflationary boom.

French front-runner, page 22

Financial watchdogs to widen their gaze

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

TWO public spending watchdogs are to carry out tougher checks on the government's new agencies after scandals involving deception and the misuse of public funds.

The National Audit Office and the Commons public accounts committee will spread their nets to inspect bodies, such as opted out schools and hospital trusts, which now control their own funds.

Robert Sheldon (L, Ashton-under-Lyne), the committee chairman, told *The Times* that he was increasingly worried that bringing private expertise into publicly funded bodies was threatening their traditionally high standards.

"Corruption is not on the way out anywhere in the world," he said. "I want to make sure it stays out here. But there have been a number of cases where that is not so."

The most recent scandals include the saga of mismanagement at the Welsh Development Agency, which was exposed in a committee report after "whistle blowers" in the agency spoke out. Mr Sheldon said that "the WDA officials just ran it as their own show".

The cross-party committee will shortly publish another highly critical report on the loss of £63 million through a suspect computer contract by the Wessex regional health authority. Mr Sheldon has described the case as a "truly horrifying story".

The rapid growth in organisations working at arm's length from Whitehall is presenting many problems for Mr Sheldon's committee and for the National Audit Office, headed by Sir John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, which inspects all public accounts.

Their check list now cover not only government departments, but executive agencies, quangos, opt-out schools, and health trusts.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth office. Debates on opposition motions on Scottish local government and on G7 summit. Lords (2.30): European communities (amendment) bill, report, final day.

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Advisers overruled by Lilley

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

PETER Lilley, the social security secretary, has rejected advice from the government's own advisory committee to reform the Social Fund, the state's safety net for the poor.

In a report yesterday, Mr Lilley says that despite advice from the social security advisory committee and York University to revise the fund, which gives discretionary loans for the needy, he intends to press on with the scheme as it is. The report coincides with new figures showing that three-quarters of applications for the £400 million fund are rejected. The figures which have been obtained by *The Times* shows 72.76 per cent of applications were rejected in the year ending April 1993.

Last year, the advisory committee produced a highly critical report claiming that the fund was not generous enough. But launching the social security department's annual report on the fund yesterday, Nicholas Scott, minister for the disabled, said: "There is much in the latest report to confirm that the fund is working very effectively as intended."

The report shows the fund covered 1.8 million non-repayable grants and interest-free loans worth more than £314 million, plus £87 million in maternity, funeral and cold-weather payments.

Social chapter poses biggest threat to vulnerable Tories

THE government's narrow squeak in the Commons vote on extending VAT to domestic fuel, a majority of just eight, underlines its continued vulnerability ahead of two key political tests later this month.

The first is over Europe. What matters is not tonight's vote in the Lords over a referendum on the Maastricht treaty. Despite the strong views of its supporters, the referendum amendment looks certain to be defeated. That should be the end of the matter. And the Maastricht bill will become law next week.

More worrying for ministers are the subsequent votes on the social chapter in the Commons and the Lords required by the bill. Throughout the Commons debates on the bill, the government sought to defer a decisive vote on the chapter. But that now has to be faced. The government faces the united votes of Labour, the Liberal Democrats and all the smaller parties, apart from the Ulster Unionists, for British involvement in the social chapter. That explains why ministers have recently been publicly courting the unionists. The outcome could be so tight that even the vote of Sir James Kilfedder, the independent Ulster Unionist, has entered the calculations of Tory whips.

Ministers are now engaged in an exercise of bluff with

Tory Euro-sceptics, who are split. A hard-core will revolt whatever appeals are made by the government. Some others may rebel if they believe there is a chance of blocking ratification of the treaty.

The government will have to convince potential rebels that it will press ahead with ratification since the Maastricht bill is law, while leaving a doubt about its intentions over the social chapter.

The government may be let off the legal hook if the Lords votes against British partici-

pation in the chapter. That would still leave a political dilemma if it loses in the Commons. Even if the government decides to ratify, leaving a final decision on the chapter until later, John Major may have to seek an immediate confidence vote.

This wrangling will harm the Tories in the Christchurch by-election. Nothing damages a party more than the appearance of disunity. The Liberal Democrats are trying to turn the contest into a protest against the extension of VAT. The Tories fairly point out that all parties have considered energy taxes, but that is unlikely to reduce the resentment of pensioners, a third of residents in Christ-

church, the second highest proportion in England and Wales.

William Powell, one of the Tory rebels in Monday's debate, warned his party - in what Nicholas Budgen sarcastically described as "a very helpful speech" - that because the government would not withdraw the VAT extension, the Tories would lose the by-election.

It is hard to find a Tory MP, apart from Sir Norman Fowler, who believes their candidate will win.

IG Index, which offers odds on political events, reports that betting is all one-way on the by-election.

It has raised its middle quotation on the Liberal Democrat majority over the Tories from 2,000 at the beginning of the week to 4,100 yesterday morning, and 5,100 last night.

To some extent, therefore, a Tory loss may be discounted. But it would still be highly damaging at a time when Tory morale is already shaky.

The risk for Mr Major is that losing Christchurch would be seen as a verdict on him and that, if it followed a Commons defeat on the social chapter, it would reignite speculation about his future.

By the end of the month, the Tories might be relieved they lose just one of these two tests.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour seeks accord on voting rights

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, will come under intense pressure today to back down on his union reforms as trade unionists and MPs meet to thrash out a compromise deal.

At a crucial meeting at Westminster, modernising MPs, including Tony Blair and Robin Cook, will try to ward off proposals by trade unionists and traditionalist MPs such as John Prescott and Clare Short. The trade union links committee is expected to draw up a series of options which will go to Labour's national executive committee next Monday.

While most members of the union-

dominated links committee are said to be opposed to Mr Smith's plan for one member one vote (OMOV) for the selection of parliamentary candidates, the group is unlikely to reject the scheme out of hand.

It is instead expected to propose three or four schemes which will include a register of Labour supporters who have voting rights for parliamentary candidates and the leadership, "levy plus" whereby those who pay a political levy will pay slightly more to become full party members (a version of OMOV backed by Mr Smith) or an electoral college based on balloting individual trade unionists.

Traditionalists are proposing a compromise based on the register of Labour supporters, whereby political levy payers would declare their support for the party

and for its main constitutional policies, but would not become full card-carrying members. The unions could pay an administrative fee which would represent the "levy plus" element.

However, last night Labour officials made clear that Mr Smith would not back any scheme in which trade unionists did not become full members. He will also expect each trade unionist to pay a top-up fee to the political levy but this could be as little as £3.

The trade union links committee will also analyse findings of a consultation exercise in which all constituency parties were asked about selection of candidates. It is understood that about 80 per cent of those who responded favoured a change from the status quo.

Struggle for water and life saps the spirit of Sarajevo

FROM TIM JUDAH
IN SARAJEVO

AMINA's father died when he went to fetch water last October. He reasoned that because of the shelling people would be in the shelters and there would be no queue. He paid for the trip with his life. Amina says: "We lost the war. I lost my father. Does it mean I am not patriotic if I don't want to die for nothing. I want to survive."

Yesterday morning, Leila was waiting for the water lorry. It did not arrive. "I don't see the point of continuing," she said. "We have no chance. We have no food, no running water, the world will not give us anything and I am not prepared to die for idiotic ideals." Seila, her neighbour, said angrily that if she had a gun she would fight and die for Bosnia-Herzegovina. "It's because you will die that we should sign [the peace deal]," said Leila wearily. On Monday, 12 more people died waiting for water in the suburb of Dobrinja.

After 16 months of siege, Sarajevo is desperate, in disarray and divided. The Bosnian capital feels abandoned and betrayed by the world, and its people and leaders are

■ There is no easy choice left for the exhausted Muslims, who do not know where to turn. Signing up for peace, any peace, will not ensure an end to the hell

exhausted and do not know where to turn.

Since there is no electricity, dinner at Amina's is by candlelight to the accompaniment of machinegun fire. The meal consists of bread and a packet of humanitarian aid cheese bought on the blackmarket for the equivalent of three months' pay.

Some say that the endgame has been reached. The Bosnian government claims it will reply to the Serb-Croat partition plan for the country with a federation plan of its own. Many suspect that it is a figleaf — a face-saving document to end the war and to disguise defeat.

In his cellar office-flat, Stjepan Kijacic, president of the Bosnian war crimes commission, banged the table, and said: "I am for the fight to the end. We would die but it would be to the shame of the West. They cannot take away our right of self-defence."

A government official, who asked not to be named, said:

"They can call it a federation but it's obviously partition. I don't call this defeat, I call it betrayal by the world and by the government."

Mr Kijacic remains steadfast in his belief of an undivided Bosnia, and said the government is in disarray. President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and others want to sign up for peace, any peace, but do not know how, he said.

Last week, Mr Izetbegovic said that some form of partition was the lesser of the two evils if the country was forced into "a war without end". Later, he claimed that he had been misunderstood. But there is no easy choice.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has said that unless Mr Izetbegovic signs up for partition, the country will be divided between Serbs and Croats, and the Muslims will get nothing. In Sarajevo, it is believed that partition would be worse than defeat. It would mean more war as hundreds of



Lost in grief a Muslim woman covers her face as she weeps for her mother who was killed in a queue for water in Sarajevo

thousands of Croats, Muslims and Serbs left on the wrong side of the ethnic frontiers fled or were ethnically cleansed.

Under the immense pres-

sure, the capital is beginning to crack. "Many people feel the war is very close to the end now," said Bojan Zeca, a reporter for the Bosnian news agency. "Two hundred thou-

sand are dead. We can stop now and build on what's left. Those who want to continue say this is defeat. Others say: 'let's end this hell'."

Kemal Muftic, an adviser to Mr Izetbegovic, said the world had failed Bosnia "just as Czechoslovakia was sacrificed to feed Hitler's appetites". He rejected the suggestion that the dilemma

is defeat or peace or more war postponing defeat. "People keep asking me 'how long can you hold out?' Apparently we are constantly about to fall ... but we are still here."

Night brings out sanctions busters

FROM ANDREW TARNOWSKI IN PELINCE, MACEDONIA

EVERY night the sanctions busters gather at a small hilltop frontier post just north of Skopje, the Macedonian capital. The long line of covered lorries waits with headlights off for hours until a Macedonian policeman emerges from a hut to raise the red-and-white barrier and allow them north into Serbia.

At about 10.30pm the vehicles roar across, punching another hole in the trade embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council on Serbia to punish it for its role in the war in Bosnia. When the northbound traffic has gone, another line of lorries rumbles southwards from Serbia.

On this night, the 90 lorries on the Macedonian side stretch back nearly a mile past a UN Protection Force observation post where Swedish peacekeeping troops keep count and report to base. "During the night at this place there can be 150 to 200 trucks crossing in both directions,"

says the Swedish officer. "It's been going on all the time since we came here in February and it's the same all along the frontier."

The UN troops have no mandate to enforce sanctions. Only the Macedonian Sanctions Assistance Mission from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe helps customs officers enforce the embargo.

The mission's 28 officers cover five official crossings on the Serbian border and four on the southern border with Greece, which are designated for the passage of sanctions-exempt goods such as food, medicines and humanitarian aid.

"When the officers go home at 8 or 9pm the sanctions-busting trucks start rolling across the border at the official crossings," a UN source said.

Even American diplomats admit that sanctions present Macedonia with problems. Closing its border would destroy its economy. (Reuters)

Abkhazians are given ultimatum

Tbilisi: Georgia issued an ultimatum to Abkhazian separatists yesterday, threatening a massive attack on their main base if rebels fail to withdraw from two key areas.

The rebels have until midnight tonight to comply. Hundreds have been killed in the Black Sea region since Georgia sent in troops last August to quell Abkhazian nationalists who had voted for more autonomy. (Reuters)

Guerrilla offer

Phnom Penh: Khieu Samphan, the leader of the Khmer Rouge, who said his guerrillas were willing to join Cambodia's national army, revealed that Prince Norodom Sihanouk had offered him ministerial posts. (Reuters)

Iraq case fails

Darmstadt: A case against eight Germans charged with helping Iraq to build a chemical weapons arsenal collapsed because of a lack of expert testimony, prosecutors have admitted after more than a year of proceedings. (Reuters)

Clean air bill

Budapest: More than £16 million will be spent persuading Trabant and Wartburg owners to hand over their fume-belching cars for demolition and get free public transport passes for up to three years in return. (Reuters)

Deng denial

Hong Kong: The daily *Tu Kung Pao*, a Chinese-controlled Hong Kong newspaper, has denied a Japanese report that Deng Xiaoping, 88, China's senior leader, had cancer surgery. (Reuters)

Drugs sentence

Dhaka: A Bangladesh court has sentenced Eladiah McCord, 18, an American, to life imprisonment for smuggling 6.6lb of heroin from Bangkok, officials said. (AFP)

Magnate lists his gifts to ministers

FROM PHILIP WILLAN
IN ROME

POLITICIANS in Naples caught up in Italy's corruption scandal have been heckled, spat upon, and turned away from restaurants. Now their reputations have suffered a new affront with the confessions of Giampaolo Zambelletti, a chemical manufacturer, who has provided magistrates with a catalogue of gifts that he says he delivered to coincide with ministerial birthdays, weddings and Christmas.

Having discovered the more prosaic methods of payment, such as secret Swiss bank accounts and attaché cases full of bank notes, the magistrates are now apparently reviewing silver tableware and ruby necklaces. Prime beneficiaries of Signor Zambelletti's generosity, were alleged by Italian newspapers yesterday to be Francesco De Lorenzo, the former health minister, and Paolo Cirino Pomicino, former budget minister.

Signor De Lorenzo, a Liberal, and Signor Pomicino, a Christian Democrat, are from Naples, and both were on a committee which set government-controlled drug prices.

Both former ministers have denied wrongdoing. Signor Pomicino, who is also under investigation for alleged collusion with the Camorra crime organisation, said even friendships were being distorted as part of a witch hunt.

Last night Salvatore Ligresti, one of Italy's richest businessmen, surrendered to police, four days after an international warrant was issued for his arrest on corruption charges.

Last year Signor Ligresti served four months in jail for kickbacks paid to politicians by one of his construction firms. He was freed in November after a prostrate operation and had agreed to co-operate with magistrates.

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Republicans search for unity to fight 'godsend' Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

LEADING Republicans pummeled President Clinton as a tax-happy liberal, a fan of big government, and an advocate of dangerously deep defence cuts at their summer strategy session in Chicago. They also gave thanks to Mr Clinton for helping to unite their party.

"Bill Clinton is a godsend," said Haley Barbour, chairman of the Republican National Committee. "I'm not being facetious when I say he's done more for us in six months than I could have done in four years." Since losing the White House after 12 years, Republicans have been on a winning streak in state and local elections that has made the Grand Old Party feel grand again. As Mr Clinton's ratings have fallen, the right wing has attracted shoals of recruits.

Beneath the surface though, Republicans are in conflict. They need to shake off last year's image of intolerance on social issues and to work out how to win back voters who defected to Ross Perot. They must find a middle course on abortion and homosexual rights that will find favour with their conservative base while not scaring off moderates and new adherents.

Today's conflict is reminiscent of a remark made many years ago by Ronald Reagan: "The trouble with the Republican party is that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing."

In Chicago, by design, most speakers were moderates and not the social-issues and religious-right crowd who contributed to George Bush's defeat, and who threaten to split the party again as it prepares to challenge Mr Clinton in 1996.

Republicans badly need a

■ The Grand Old Party is trying to pick up the pieces. It needs leadership and ideas which will attract voters from the Democrats yet retain its conservative base

leader, and as many as ten would-be presidential candidates are trying out campaign themes. The hunt for ideas has generated a glut of think tanks, policy seminars and loudly named pressure groups. Party headquarters has just formed the National Policy Forum: a Republican Centre for the Exchange of Ideas. In its quest, the forum will send "in-depth questionnaires" to 600,000 party activists, and hold dozens of town meetings before trying to turn the opinions into policy reports.

The Empower America group was founded by two presidential contenders who are soul-mates from the Reagan-Bush years. Jack Kemp, the former housing secretary, and Bill Bennett, the former education secretary and drugs "tsar". Their centre-right agenda calls for privatising public housing and bolstering small businesses. They are dismissed as

agents of big government by Patrick Buchanan, the vociferous, right-wing commentator who may run again in 1996. His group, American Cause, is still waging the cultural war of anti-gay and anti-abortion beliefs that led to his denunciation as a bigot for his speech to the Republican convention in Houston last year.

Mr Buchanan's views are echoed in part by the religious right through Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, which is enjoying a huge revival. It has attracted an average of 10,000 new members a week since Mr Clinton took office.

The fundamentalists propagate social values that often seem mean and intolerant to moderate Republicans. Connie Morella, a congresswoman for Maryland, says: "They send out a message that, unless there is a certain way you talk, raise your kids, love and pray, you are most certainly not welcome here."

A Republican dilemma is whether traditionalists can be persuaded to dilute their social conservatism while the party broadens its base and develops plausible alternatives on the economy, education, health and welfare. Another question is whether the party should rekindle Reaganomics or abandon nostalgia and try to articulate new goals.

Among those staking out their chances are Richard Cheney, the former defence secretary, Lamar Alexander, the former education secretary, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Senator Robert Dole of Kansas.

Buchanan: anti-gay, anti-abortion agenda

Buchanan: anti-gay, anti-abortion agenda

Buchanan: anti-gay, anti-abortion agenda

González excludes radicals

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

AFTER more than a decade in power the picnic is officially over for Spain's divided Socialist party, with the official announcement yesterday by Felipe González, the prime minister, of his new cabinet.

Faced with a split within the party, Señor González has not included in the cabinet a single member of the idealistic faction of the "Guerristas". In the last cabinet there were three followers of Alfonso Guerra, a former deputy prime minister who is now at loggerheads with the reformists who will dominate the new government.

With the country's gravest economic problems for 30

years to manage, and having to govern 17 seats short of a majority, Señor González has appointed eight new ministers to his 18-member cabinet, consisting mainly of technocrats. The cabinet includes six independents, all faithful to his pragmatic approach.

"There are no surprises," said Rodrigo Rato, a spokesman for the conservative opposition. The Basque and Catalan nationalists, on whom the Socialists now depend for a majority, gave their approval to the nominations.

The opposition have left the door open for possible changes in the cabinet if they decide to join the Socialists in

a coalition after the autumn budget debate, in which they are seeking large fiscal concessions.

The economy and finance post has gone to Pedro Solbes, 50, an economist and linguist who was previously the agriculture minister. Four ministers retained their posts with Nardis Serra, 50, the deputy prime minister, assuming additional responsibility for co-ordinating the economy and the regions.

British diplomatic sources welcomed the continuance of Javier Solana, 51, as foreign minister and did not predict any significant policy shifts on Gibraltar.



Woman warrior: an Armenian tank unit commander preparing to face Azerbaijani forces near Agdam this week. Fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, which has left 15,000 dead, is adding to Armenians' privations

Blockaded Armenians get ready for second war against winter

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN YEREVAN

THE sun beat down on this modern Soviet city yesterday, but almost everyone was talking about how they can prepare for the bitter winter.

The Armenian capital has become as dependent on the seasons as any prehistoric village. In summer, it smells of petrol fumes, dust and garbage. In winter, it shrivels and contracts. Yerevanis know from experience that there will be an acute shortage of heating.

The reason is the Nagorno-Karabakh war and the consequent blockade by Azerbaijan. Last winter, this was made even more effective by the sabotage of gas pipelines across neighbouring Georgia. Economic life in Yerevan came to a virtual halt. Mortality and malnutrition soared.

The Ararat plateau, on which Yerevan is situated, is in any case a place of climatic extremes. In July it is blazingly hot; but the mountains which ring the plain are still

capped with ice, a grim reminder of winter, when temperatures drop to minus 30C.

This plateau has known human habitation before. For most of the period from 1917 to 1920, it was the only haven of the Armenian people from the advancing Turks, and became a huge camp for refugees from the Turkish genocide. In the words of Ruben Hakopian, a leader of the Dashnak opposition party: "If the Armenians are relatively good at coping with their present hardships, that is because history has bred endurance into our national genes."

Most of Yerevan's population today are in fact descendants of refugees from Turkey. This also explains the size of the city which has grown from 16,000 people in 1914 to 1.25 million, and today has more than one third of Armenia's total population.

The city's infrastructure bears the scars of last winter.



when much of it collapsed. Today, it is common on the streets of Yerevan to see broken down buses and a strange example of passenger power — trolley bus passengers pushing their buses to a working section of overhead cable, while the driver sits at the wheel and utters encouraging cries.

Yet the situation is not altogether bad. The Armenians have a reputation for entrepreneurial skill. Large quantities of foreign goods reach the city, some smuggled

from Azerbaijan with the connivance of corrupt Azerbaijani officials.

As a result, Yerevan in July is probably the most cheerful city in the Caucasus. Cafés, ice cream bars and shashlik stalls are full and restaurants blare with the music of wedding parties.

Still, as an Armenian journalist said yesterday, "If people are enjoying themselves now, it's just because they know that six months from now they will be hungry and freezing." A common complaint is that there is no point in trying to stock up for winter, above all kerosene for heating, because prices are so high that even middle income people cannot afford to buy.

One main worry is that last winter, exhausted most people's reserves of preserved fruit and vegetables, so that this coming winter, even more of the population may be forced to rely on soup kitchens and Western aid.

Oldest stitch in time

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE world's oldest piece of cloth, believed to have been woven nearly 9,000 years before the dresses of Laura Ashley and the suits of Tommy Nutter, has been unearthed near the upper Tigris river in modern-day Turkey.

Archaeologists who have carbon-dated the material claim that it is from around 7,000 BC, and early tests indicate it is linen. The fragment, measuring 3ins by 1½ins, was found with part of an antler. Researchers speculate that it could have come from a tunic or shawl, or might be from gloves worn when using a tool.

One of the team who have been studying the cloth, Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, of the textile research centre at the national museum of ethnology in Leiden, The Netherlands, hailed the find as a "fascinating discovery". She said: "It pushes back the date at which we know textiles were produced."

Linda Woolley, curator of early and medieval textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, said yesterday that the find could shed new light on the weaving abilities and the availability of raw materials at the time.

"We have not got anything as old as this, but if you look at our collection of dynastic linens from Egypt, which are from between 1,500 BC and 2,000 BC, they are extremely fine. You cannot get linen like this now. It reflects the skills and also the quality of flax available."

The fragment is 4,000 years older than any that is held in the Petrie collection at University College London, and predates the oldest cloth that had previously been discovered by 500 years. It was found by a team led by archaeologists and scientists at the University of Chicago and the University of Istanbul in a semi-fossilised state at Cayonu, about 30 miles from the city of Diyarbakir.

President to visit flooded Midwest

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Clinton was breaking off his holiday in Hawaii last night to visit the flood-stricken upper Midwest, the White House said.

He had been scheduled to leave Hawaii today, after a few days of relaxation following his visit to Asia. The White House budget director, Leon Panetta, is assembling a package of federal aid.

The rain-swollen Mississippi and its tributaries continued to swallow up land yesterday. Residents and National Guardsmen battled to save homes and businesses. The flooding was linked to at least 19 deaths, 13 in Missouri. The Red Cross said more than 7,600 homes were damaged or destroyed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

Meanwhile, more storms swept across Iowa, leading to police warnings of new record floods on the Raccoon River. Flooding there has already contaminated Des Moines' water supply.



Flood patrol: helicopter, one with Vice-President Al Gore on board, sweep low over flooded homes near the Mississippi and Missouri

Siege of franc blemishes Bastille day

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

With General Philippe Morillon at his side, President Mitterrand today takes the salute of the French armed forces at the Bastille day parade but the big moment for the political classes has nothing to do with martial might or "Philippe of Bosnia", as the press calls the newly returned UN commander. Along with the currency markets, the politicians are poised for M Mitterrand's lunchtime chat with the nation.

The event has added spice this year because it amounts to the Socialist president's first review of the conservative government, led by Edouard Balladur, since it took office three months ago. It also comes amid doubts over its ability to revive the economy.

This week's run on the franc, which abated somewhat yesterday with fresh German help, caught M Balladur off guard just as he and

his team were congratulating themselves on their success in persuading citizens to buy 100 billion francs (€12.6 billion) of special government bonds. Yesterday, a bill to make the Banque de France independent cleared its final hurdle in the senate. Bonn's support to shore up the franc came as a brutal reminder of France's subordination to German economic power, and inflicted a cold shower on ministers crowing about the franc replacing the mark as the "anchor" in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

In comparison with the turbulent "cobaltisation" of the late 1980s, the latest bout of French power-sharing has so far proven eerily harmonious. The Socialist president has kept himself to occasional ironic asides as the Gaullist prime minister has basked in a long honeymoon and embarked on his campaign to

staunch the unemployment that is inflicting such a trauma on the Gallic psyche. The two men share a similar personal style and a belief in the need to defend France against "Anglo-Saxon-led" efforts to dictate, as they see it, terms for a new world trade accord at the expense of France and its farmers in particular.

However, with jockeying under way for his own succession in May 1995, the president may be unable to resist much longer the temptation for making mischief. Conventional wisdom was expecting this after the long truce of the summer holidays, but the squall over the economy and signs that the farmers are once again on the warpath suggest an earlier foray. Polls show M Balladur's popularity now waning and M Mitterrand's recovering.

The Balladur team is insist-

ing that devaluation or withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism remains "unthinkable", and most experts believe that the Bundesbank will do all in its power to avert a collapse. But, just as the sterling crisis did for Britain last autumn, the third assault on the franc in ten months is highlighting the contradiction between the government's attempts to revive the economy and its commitment to a strong currency.

Unlike the previous two attacks, M Balladur is unlikely to raise interest rates. Even with rates now down to the German level, the government is still trying to "drive the economy with all the brakes on", said Le Monde yesterday. Forecasts last week, which said the economy would shrink by 1.2 per cent, brought signs of desperation.

Stirling surge, page 21

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Pressure grows for US to stop calling the shots in Somalia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Aidid: incited uprising against UN forces

IF THE United Nations operation in Somalia gives every appearance of being under American control, that is also the reality. The UN effectively ceded control to the United States some time ago.

The basic command structure of the UN Somalia operation was agreed in February when Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, had a private lunch with Boutros Boutros Ghali at the UN secretary-general's residence in New York. Although the United Nations chief had publicly insisted he had full confidence in his special representative in Somalia, Mr Christopher insisted that the man, a former leading Iraqi diplomat, must go.

Dr Boutros Ghali suggested that an American take the job, and a month later, Ismat Khatami, the Iraqi, was replaced after only four months in the post. At the time, United Nations officials suggested that his departure was due to a longstanding gall bladder problem, but he has since been reassigned to the job of Dr Boutros Ghali's representative in Tajikistan.

His replacement in Somalia raised eyebrows among UN veterans. For the first time, the secretary-general had named a former senior US military officer as a United Nations special representative in an essentially diplomatic post.

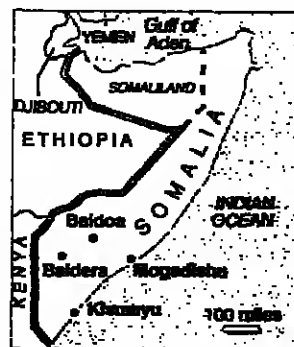
Retired Admiral Jonathan Howe has a curriculum vitae that would be the pride of any military man. His long career includes two years in command of allied forces in southern Europe, and US naval forces in Europe and the eastern Atlantic.

Washington insisted that the UN military commander in Somalia, when the world body assumed control of the country from the US-led multinational force, should be General Cevik Bir of Turkey, a highly regarded Nato general. Another American military officer, Major-General Tom Montgomery, was named as General Bir's deputy.

■ America's military has effective control of the United Nations operation. This week's violence highlights the shortcomings in the command structure

Thus did the UN cede effective control of its unprecedented "peace enforcement" operation in Somalia to the United States. It was an arrangement that suited both sides, even though another 26 countries from Kuwait to Romania were directly involved in the UN force.

The UN was confident that the involvement of Admiral Howe guaranteed it quick access to American firepower and political support, and as a token obtained command of



4,000 US troops — the first time Washington had placed a sizeable number of American soldiers under UN command. Only when General Muhammad Farah Aidid, the Somali warlord, incited an uprising

against UN forces, triggering ambushes that left 23 Pakistani peacekeepers dead, did the shortcomings of the command structure become clear. With rising violence in the Somali capital, some of the countries with troops in the UN force are getting cold feet and are now taking orders from their own capitals rather than the American-dominated UN authorities.

The Italians and the Pakistanis, two of the largest contingents in the 20,000-strong UN force, are reported to be refusing to follow UN orders for fear of losing more troops. The Pakistanis say that they need additional armoured cars, and the Italians insist on negotiating with the Somalis before joining dangerous UN operations.

Refusing to single out any particular nation, Joe Sills, the secretary-general's spokesman, said: "It is unacceptable to the United Nations... for the national contingents to

seek instructions from their member states or their national capitals," he said. "They are under the force commander and they are supposed to follow his orders. That is very clear." Italy, which had three of its UN troops killed in an ambush on July 2, has publicly criticised the UN's handling of the confrontation with General Aidid, and has asked the UN to call a halt to its offensive to allow time for negotiations.

Members of the 15-nation UN Security Council, which sets the broad mandate of all UN military operations, remain supportive of the offensive in Somalia, however. They recognise that if its forces can be defeated by the irregular army of a Somali warlord, then the UN will lose credibility globally.

Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN ambassador and this month's president of the security council, said after the latest clashes in Mogadishu that he was determined to prevent the council from trying to manage UN military action. "There is no question of any military operations... being communicated to the security council in advance, and if anyone tried to do so I would be the first to prevent it," he said.

□ Mogadishu: Somali employees of Western news agencies faced angry crowds yesterday as they recovered the bodies of three foreign journalists killed in a mob attack after the UN assault on General Aidid's headquarters.

The body of a fourth journalist, retrieved soon after Monday's attack, along with the other bodies, was flown to Kenya yesterday. In three attacks on UN troops in Mogadishu since the assault on the compound, five peacekeepers were wounded, one of them seriously, officials said. (Reuters/AP)

Leading article, page 15

Township 'monster' linked to extremists

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

GUNMEN firing at random from a moving car killed 14 people in two Transvaal townships on the eve of renewed peace talks. Among other casualties of the latest round of township troubles was the so-called "Vaal Monster", a man believed to have been responsible for more than 70 killings.

Nine people were killed instantly when a carload of unknown gunmen, raced through Sebokeng and nearby Evaton on Monday night. Four more died in hospital.

Major Piet van Deventer, a police spokesman, said: "It was completely random. There is no way these people could have known whom they were shooting."

The level of violence rose markedly after democracy negotiations, on July 2, set next April 27 for South Africa's first all-race elections. The latest incident happened just before talks in Johannesburg, between the African National Congress, and the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party.

It was disclosed yesterday that Victor Kheswa — the so-called "Vaal Monster" — who died in police custody on Saturday, had belonged to an extreme right-wing organisation, the World Frontist Movement. He was also a member of Inkatha.

Kheswa died after being arrested with three other men by a special police unit that investigates violence and unrest. Three detectives have been suspended and a murder investigation has begun.

Residents linked Kheswa and his gang to the massacre of 38 people last year at a funeral vigil for a murdered ANC official. Last month and in April, 25 people died violently in Sebokeng and Evaton, and again residents claimed that Kheswa was responsible.

The Pretoria-based World Frontist Movement, which claims to have links with some 50 neo-Nazi organisations internationally, is contributing towards the legal costs of Kheswa's trial. The alleged assassin of Chris Hani, the Communist party leader.

Chief rejects military call for new vote in Nigeria

FROM SAM KILBY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN LAGOS

NIGERIA'S military government was last night heading for a showdown with the leading opposition party and civil rights groups after President Babangida confirmed the annulment of last month's presidential elections and said new polls should be held.

The Campaign for Democracy, an alliance of 25 groups which organised pro-democracy demonstrations that brought Lagos and other cities to a standstill two weeks ago, said that it would lead a "campaign to shut Nigeria down" in protest.

Chief Moshood Abiola, the undeclared winner of the June 12 elections, said that he would not take part in fresh polls. He may also be disqualified by the government because it says "presidential candidates must have been a member of their party for at least a year."

"There is only one [legitimate] government — my government. That is all there is," Chief Abiola, 55, said. "We are in the last stages of setting up total democracy. And we are not going to stop just because the army says so."

Chief Abiola won the backing of two of Nigeria's former military rulers, who demanded that General Babangida should surrender power. "In the interests of peace, justice, unity and stability, we demand that the Babangida administration be terminated forthwith," General Olusegun Obasanjo said. He spoke from a statement signed by other influential Nigerians, including General Muhammadu Buhari, who was overthrown by General Babangida in 1983.

"We demand that the election, which was universally judged to be free and fair, be upheld and the winners sworn in as president and vice-president," said General Obasanjo, the only one of Nigeria's military rulers to hand power to civilians, in 1979. Chief Abiola won 58.5

per cent of last month's vote and did well for a southerner in the north, where he took 30 per cent of the electorate for his Social Democratic Party.

Amid the jostling for the presidential prize, a schism is threatening to plunge Nigeria into chaos. Southern leaders, frustrated by the north's domination of politics, are talking of dividing the country. "They pollute our rivers and poison our soil. Now the military clique around Babangida is trying to ignore the will of the people. If we have to, we will tell the north to go their own way," Fred Agbeyebe, a senior member of Chief Abiola's entourage, said.

Chief Abiola, however, has often insisted that he would not countenance splitting Nigeria, which could ignite a civil war — as did the attempted secession of Biafra in the 1960s, when a million people died in the fighting and famine which followed.

Abiola aides yesterday supported the Campaign for Democracy's call for mass action. "That is now the only way people power. We will mobilise the masses to show what they think of this regime," one said.

About 25 people died in pro-democracy demonstrations when the June 12 election was annulled. Opposition leaders were yesterday fearful that further demonstrations might produce higher casualties.

Shegun Jegede, of the Campaign for Democracy, said that the organisation would ask Nigerians to stay away from work, but also to keep off the streets because it feared a military clampdown.

General Babangida, who took power in the military coup in 1983, appears to have bowed to pressure from aides and the ruling junta at the National Security and Defence Council, to prevent the handover of power to a southerner.

Runke off HOKKAIDO ISLAND LEAVES TRAIL OF DEVASTATION



Road block: lorries lie in deep fissures in the road yesterday at Oshamambe on Hokkaido island after an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale caused severe damage. Warnings of tidal waves came too late for many coastal areas

Tremors and tidal waves kill 70 in Japan

FROM JOANNA PITTMAN IN TOKYO

KIUCHI Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, broke off his election campaign yesterday to fly north to Hokkaido to inspect the destruction caused by a powerful earthquake and tidal waves that struck the region late on Monday night. More than 70 people have been killed and an estimated 170 are missing.

Coastal residential areas of Okushiri island, hit by the worst series of earthquakes, tidal waves and landslides in 25 years, also faced a terrifying inferno from household fires that swept from one wooden house to another "like dominoes", according to witness accounts yesterday.

The earthquake that triggered the mass destruction

measured 7.8 on the Richter scale at its epicentre, about 50 miles off Okushiri in the Sea of Japan. The ensuing tidal waves, landslides and fires, many of which were caused by gas explosions, destroyed at least 300 of the 680 houses clustered near the shore in the southernmost town of Aomae.

With five days to go before the July 18 elections, the Japanese media halted its saturation political coverage and television stations hastily produced "earthquake specials", showing horrifying scenes of oil tanks bursting into flames, people half buried by boulders and stunned residents picking their way across the rubble of their homes. Aomae, virtually razed to the ground, resembled scenes which the Japanese are accustomed to seeing in

Baghdad or Bosnia, but seldom within their own shores.

Last night, dark plumes of smoke spiralled from the smouldering fires, and distraught relatives of the dead and the missing were shown among the thousands of homeless, bedding down in blankets for the night in school gymnasiums and town halls. A security camera in a 24-hour supermarket recorded the impact of the main tremor: it showed shoppers being thrown to the floor, bombarded by falling cans and bottles, followed by entire shelving installations crashing on top of them.

But it is the household fires that seem to be causing the greatest concern, since they are reminiscent of the disastrous earthquake of 1923 which also triggered sweep-

ing house-to-house fires, killing more than 100,000 in Tokyo and Yokohama.

"Dozens of houses in my neighbourhood caught fire one after the other," one Aomae resident told a reporter from the *Asahi Shimbun* yesterday. Another described being tossed in the air when the quake hit just after he went to bed on Monday night, and then running out to find most of the street on fire.

Two powerful aftershocks followed the main tremor soon after the Meteorological Agency had issued tidal wave warnings for the Sea of Japan coasts of Hokkaido and the Tohoku region of Honshu, Japan's biggest island. In many cases the warnings came too late.

The speed and ease with which the fires spread, and

the level of unpreparedness of local fire stations and relief and rescue teams on Okushiri island, and in affected areas of Hokkaido and Honshu, have badly shaken a nation that is supposed to have been preparing itself for at least 20 years for the imminent arrival of a severe earthquake, now expected to strike by the end of the century.

□ Seoul: Heavy rains in South Korea killed four people, bringing to 12 the number of deaths since Sunday. Up to ten inches of rain fell in two days. Ten-foot high tidal waves, triggered by the quake in the Sea of Japan, destroyed about 60 fishing boats along the eastern coast. In several coastal towns, people fled to high ground as their homes were flooded by sea water. (AP)

CIA blunder allowed shaikh into America

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE mystery of how the radical Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman was allowed into America, despite his alleged links to terrorism, has been solved. It was a CIA blunder, according to Washington officials yesterday.

An investigation by the State Department and the CIA has found that an agency officer, working under cover as consul in the US embassy in Khartoum, unwittingly approved the shaikh's request for a tourist visa in 1990.

By leaking the secret report, officials were trying to quell speculation that the CIA had arranged for Shaikh Abdel Rahman to enter America as a reward for helping the intelligence agency to fight against Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Followers of the blind Egyptian cleric are under arrest in New York awaiting trial for the World Trade Centre bombing and for last month's alleged plot to bomb city landmarks and tunnels. The shaikh is in prison facing deportation, having lost his plea for asylum.

The report said that the CIA officer authorised the visa after a consular clerk, a local employee, assured him incorrectly that the shaikh's name was not on the State Department's list of foreigners ineligible for entry. The CIA agent did not recognise the name, even though the shaikh was known to counter-terrorism officials for inciting a riot and for his acquittal on charges connecting him with the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt. The American embassy in Cairo had rejected six visa applications before he slipped through.

The CIA denies any connection with the shaikh in Afghanistan. Officials said he was affiliated to a rebel faction that was mistrusted by the CIA and did not travel to Pakistan, the agency's staging point for Afghan guerrillas, until after the war.

Officials have admitted that Shaikh Abdel Rahman managed to stay in America by lying on his application form. He omitted to mention either the Sadat acquittal or that he was a polygamist. Members of Congress are demanding an enquiry.

Disney clan attacks drunken bully image of biography

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK



Disney: accused of links with FBI and Nazis

IN A blistering statement that would make Snow White blush, the family of Walt Disney has dismissed as "fantasy" a biography portraying the film-maker as a drunken, anti-Semitic bully who acted as an informer for the FBI during the anti-communist McCarthy years.

Disney's 94-year-old widow, 22nd daughter released documents this week denying he snookered for the FBI, along with statements from former bureau officials, including William Webster, his head from 1976 to 1987, excoriating the studio chief. They also claim there are more than 150 "glaring factual errors" in the biography by Marc Eliot, *Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince*, which was published last week.

The angry refutation by the Disney clan is the latest salvo in an increasingly ugly dispute over what Disney the man, as distinct from Disney the product, was actually like. Eliot's biography paints a picture of an individual who was about as far removed from the cheery image of his

ington as long as the bureau was depicted as "something children would look up to".

The biography lists a barrage of accusations: while imposing strict standards of behaviour on his staff, Disney downed great quantities of bourbon; he claimed to be the sole creator of Mickey Mouse when the inspiration for his most enduring character was at least partly, if not solely, the work of Ub Iwerks, an early collaborator and subsequent rival; he used a known gangster and associate of Al Capone to break a strike at his studio; and attended American Nazi party meetings.

Eliot has dismissed the attacks on his book by the Disney clan as "the same tactics Walt Disney used with people who disagreed — that is, to attack their integrity".

Diane Disney Miller, 59, his daughter, said in a statement: "I consider this book — which ironically veers more into fantasy than my father's work ever did — to represent a character assassination of a great man who brought joy to people around the world."

Tokyo power battle Dynastic rebel woos voters

BY JOANNA PITTMAN

OVER the next five days, Shioichi Ide will grapple with what could be the most challenging election campaign of his political career. The ruling Liberal Democratic party is unlikely to retain its majority in Sunday's general election, according to an opinion survey.

Only 180 of the party's 285 candidates are assured of victory, while 70 face a tough fight. Even if they are successful, the scandal-plagued Liberal Democrats would fall short of the 256 seats required for a majority in the 511-member lower house.

As the third generation of a dynasty that has represented the ruling party for almost 40 years in this tiny town in the foothills of the Japanese Alps, Mr Ide must persuade his conservative farming supporters that his defection three weeks ago from the party to found a radically new organisation was the right thing.

For a year, Mr Ide had been plotting with nine colleagues to initiate the reforms that the party leadership had repeat-

edly promised but never delivered. The group had secretly planned their defection for this autumn, but the dissolution of parliament on June 18 after a no-confidence motion spurred them to action.

"My constituents are astonished. The Ide family name has always been an LDP name, but now I am preaching radical change. They are interested in our ideas to introduce a more transparent and less money-dependent political system, but more important is that they trust and believe in the Ide name," he said.

Mr Ide may be introducing revolutionary concepts, but he is doing so according to tradition. "One day I plan to get rid of all this paraphernalia and these ridiculous campaigning methods. They are largely meaningless but are still expected of a candidate," he said, donning a huge emblazoned jacket and sash, pinning a pink rose on his lapel, and pulling on a pair of white gloves that are supposed to assure his audience that he is not corrupt.

Into the loudspeaker-laden campaign van he piled, along with a team of six decorative young ladies in white gloves, jackets and "We will win" headbands. We sped off at cracking pace along narrow lanes fringed with apple orchards and rice paddies.

The white-gloved ladies shrieked on into their microphones: "This is Shioichi Ide! Please vote Ide! Come out of your houses! He is here to greet you." Elderly men and women came scurrying out of their wooden houses and from beneath indigo bonnets and battered old straw hats, weather-beaten faces creased into toothsome smiles. Everyone knows young [54] Shioichi.

"The decision to leave the LDP was very difficult, and I wavered and suffered for a long time. I do not regret my move, but I've left behind a debt of loyalty, and my task is harder without the financial support of the LDP machine." He has borrowed £200,000 from banks, putting up his own hefty slab of property in Tokyo as collateral.

The prime minister's wife and the Russian lover. Did she betray the West? Nicholas Bethell reports

Seduced by the KGB

Norway's normally quiet political scene is today shattered by suggestions that its greatest statesman of modern times, Einar Gerhardsen, was for many years subject to influence from the Soviet Union as a result of a sexual relationship between his wife and a KGB agent.

Gerhardsen, who was (with one short break) prime minister for 20 years after 1945, is revered as the "grand old man" of Norwegian politics and as "Norway's Ernest Bevin". However, a retired KGB general, Bogdan Dubensky, now claims to have arranged for the seduction of Gerhardsen's wife Verna when she was on a visit to the Soviet Union.

As a result, he says, she was for several years a source of high-level intelligence to the Soviet embassy in Oslo.

Mr Dubensky says: "It was my greatest achievement in intelligence and it showed what a fine espionage body the KGB can be. Over the years we had many very influential agents — Burgess, Maclean, Philby, Blunt. But in this case I was in a position to know what a Nato prime minister was saying in his bath."

Gerhardsen rose from the chairmanship of the Road Repairs' Union in 1919 to be Mayor of Oslo when Germany invaded in 1940. He spent most of the war in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. As prime minister, he built up the welfare state as a model of Scandinavian social democracy. He died in 1987 at the age of 90, 17 years after his wife.

"There have always been rumours about Verna Gerhardsen," a Norwegian government spokesman says. "She was a good looking woman, a lot younger than her husband, and rather left wing. In the 1950s she was leader of the Labour party's youth organisation and she had a plan to forge links with the Soviet

Union's 'Young Pioneers'. It was through this that she developed a circle of Russian friends, as everyone in Oslo's public life noticed."

In 1954, Mr Dubensky says, Mrs Gerhardsen travelled with a youth delegation to the Soviet Union. She was assigned a guide, a young KGB agent, called Yevgeni Belyakov. "He was a Russian bear, pockmarked and hairy and with great big hands. He was captain of the KGB volleyball team, a bit stupid, but loyal. There were only two things wrong with him. He drank too much and he had a weakness for women, although on this occasion his weakness turned out to be our strength."

The delegation spent several days in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, where it stayed at the Intourist hotel. Mr Dubensky says: "Belyakov was assigned a so-called 'plus' room. This was a hotel room with the usual furniture, plus certain special features that enabled us to record and film everything that took place."

"He spoke some English and a little Norwegian, enough to say, 'I love you'. We made sure that there was plenty of good food and drink for the delegation and the last evening he managed to entice her into his room. I asked him later, 'Wasn't it difficult, knowing that you were being filmed?' He answered, 'Oh no, you see, she was such a nice lady.'"

Norway had joined Nato in 1949 as a founder member but with certain reservations. It would not allow nuclear weapons or foreign troops to be based on its territory. At the end of the war, when the Soviet Union had occupied part of Norway, its troops had been welcomed as liberators from Nazi rule.

These factors, combined with Gerhardsen's undoubted socialism, encouraged Mos-



Dangerous liaison: a photograph from Russian sources shows Verna Gerhardsen and Yevgeni Belyakov arm in arm

cow to believe that the Labour government could be wooed away from the Atlantic alliance towards the path of neutrality. Belyakov's relationship with the prime minister's wife would therefore be

used to further this important political objective. An early first step was achieved. In the autumn of 1955, a year after the amorous encounter in the Armenian hotel, Gerhardsen and his wife paid a visit to the

Soviet Union. He was one of the first Nato leaders to do so.

In order to develop the contact, Belyakov and his wife Nina were posted to the Soviet Union's Oslo embassy. Shortly afterwards, Mr Dubensky joined them as the embassy's KGB chief. He says: "The most important part of my job was to control the link with Verna and to make sure that it produced the maximum amount of information."

"She was never blackmailed," Mr Dubensky says. "It was not necessary. She gave Belyakov the material, willingly. She was one of those westerners who was not only left wing, but also fascinated by what they saw as the 'great mystery of Mother Russia.'"

Belyakov told her that they had been filmed together in the hotel. He said that he had known nothing about it, that he was very embarrassed and he went on to suggest that, as a young diplomat, he needed to show his superiors how clever he was at collecting political information. She was fond of him and she agreed to help him on this basis, one favour for another, as it were, especially since he told her that none of the information was going to be used against Norway. It was needed only in terms of the conflict with the United States.

"We were instructed that she was a lady and that therefore he ought to behave as a gentleman, as a man



Dubensky: the retired KGB man boasts of his 'coup'

doing his duty for his country. But sometimes he would become emotional in the Russian style. He used to tell her how much better it would be for Norway to be neutral and then he would cry and say that he could not bear the thought of atomic weapons being exploded inside those beautiful fjords."

Not all the information she passed on was secret, Mr Dubensky says. "Some of it was political analysis that could be read in the press, or merely confirmation of material we had from other sources. But through Verna we got it earlier and from the insider's point of view. She told Belyakov, for instance, about Norway's position in Nato, what stance Norway would take in the United Nations and other bodies, who was becoming important in the Storting (parliament). We worked out from that who would therefore be our next targets for KGB recruitment."

"I used to drive Belyakov to his meetings with Verna. He always lay down in the back of the car and we had another

embassy car following us, to check that there was no 'tail'. They met either in the Frogner Park or in her private flat. I always left KGB men in the area, ready to give the alarm if there was any sign of danger."

The operation continued for three years and was ended only through Belyakov's other weakness — drink. One night screams were heard from his apartment and the next morning his wife emerged looking black and blue. He had beaten her up while drunk. Mr Dubensky says: "His drinking reached the stage where there was danger of a public scandal. I consulted Moscow and we sent them home."

Belyakov would now have been in serious trouble, since his bad behaviour had ruined an important operation. But General Ivan Serov, then head of the KGB, allegedly said: "We mustn't be too hard on him. He showed us great loyalty. He placed his duty to the KGB before his duty to his wife."

The Gerhardsen's son Rune is today leader of Oslo City Council and one of Norway's leading Labour party politicians. He has declined to comment.

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Baked Cod with Sea Kale, Parsley Sauce

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Have book, will travel

Holiday reading can broaden your mind, says

Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor

What's the definition of an airport best-seller? A book that goes with an in-flight meal: insipid, standardised, predictable. The mere mention of most authors who cater for the airport market elicits a groan of weary recognition from the very people who go on buying them. Airport books are a joke and an embarrassment — but they are also big business.

The truth, as the airport booksellers know, is that many of us behave rather oddly when we fly. Whether due to nervousness, exhilaration, or sheer tedium, our habits alter — including our buying habits. Why else do otherwise sober-suited businesspersons rush round the duty-free shops looking for expensive liquor when they would normally drink mineral water? Why is "adult fiction" bought at airports by educated, well-read adults — the sort who would blush if their colleagues from work spotted them reading a sexy novel on the tube?

There are, in fact, good reasons why the books we buy at the airport differ somewhat from those we buy in the high street. For one thing, airports thrive mainly on paperbacks: lightweight, disposable items which do not even need to be taken off the plane. The airport book is a special treat for many

people, especially women, who read voraciously but normally borrow books from the library rather than buying them. They go for quantity rather than quality: such books tend to be chunky: the fear of boredom on an aircraft causes people to buy novels which are usually longer than they need be. It may therefore be the kind of book that one does not have to finish before discarding.

The classic airport book needs an episodic plot with a series of climaxes, but requiring a minimum of concentration: in literary jargon, a picaresque novel. Now the picaresque novel is, of course, the oldest genre of all: Daniel Defoe, for instance, was a master of this form. *Robinson Crusoe* was the first proper thriller, while

Moll Flanders was the first in a long line of novels catering tastefully for male fantasies, which flourishes in the airports today. *A Journal of the Plague Year* was early (and excellent) "fiction": an imaginary but well-researched account of a horrific recent disaster. Had Defoe, who also has a claim to being the first professional journalist, lived today, he would have outdone Lord Archer, Jilly Cooper, Shirley Conran et al.

On the list of Heathrow bestsellers are, of course, thrillers or crime novels that are riding on the back of a film or television series (such as *Jurassic Park* or *The Way Through the Woods*). There are also, however, several books which are rather more "serious". *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang, for instance, is a

Literary Editor's Top 10 holiday books

- *Paper Dreams* by Stephen Glover
- *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth
- *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt
- *The Healing* by David Park
- *The Saddle Cow* by Anne McElvoy
- *The Art Of Worldly Wisdom* by Baltasar Gracián
- *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* by John Henry Newman
- *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert
- *The Tap Dancer* by Andrew Barrow
- *Uvertura* by Adam Thorpe

real-life saga about the martyrdom of 20th century China. *Fatherland* by Robert Harris, too, is a thoughtful novel about a world in which Hitler has won the war. While firmly in the thriller genre, it is also a disguised warning against the revival of national socialism: despite its success, no German publisher would touch it.

Paul Theroux's *Happy Isles of Oceania* is an upmarket travel book by one of the leading practitioners of the genre, who does not pander to his mass readership: writing about this book in *The Times*, Eco lyer wrote that "he makes no attempt to ingratiate". Another encouraging development of the past couple of years is the inclusion of shelves of serious literature (often under the rubric "classics"). So instead of the usual kind of blockbuster you could, for instance, sample the first novel translation of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* since it first appeared in English (in Everyman hardback at £10.99 and Vintage paperback at £6.99). Or you could try any one of the recent prize-winning literary novels that are now out in paperback: Jeff Torrington, Michael Ondaatje, Adam Thorpe, Andrew Barrow, David Park. Or there are the much-ridiculed but in many cases talented 20 Best Young British Novelists.

A long journey is an opportunity to be adventurous: not just abroad, but in the imagination too. This summer holiday, why not try a real writer, you have always meant to read, but never actually did? You might surprise yourself.

How to be great and good

Ten steps that will put you on the path to power and glory

WHEN Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull arrived at Heathrow in the late 1960s, no cabbie would take them into town. Several decades later, the nation has already started saluting Mr Jagger's forthcoming 50th birthday, which will no doubt appear in the birthday column of *The Times*. As one profile concluded, Mr Jagger has very nearly become part of the Great and the Good.

He hasn't quite made the G and G club yet — he is still more great than good and his entry in *Who's Who* is conspicuous by its absence. But he is getting there. He has done time helping with a government-sponsored event, National Music Day. His wife, Jerry Hall, is not only beautiful but also serves on an increasing number of committees. And his hair is definitely on the cusp of turning grey.

The G and G club is gradually recruiting more and more members from diverse fields of achieve-

ment. Mixing with the traditional worthies are the big businessmen who were made acceptable by Margaret Thatcher, like Lord King of Wartaby and Lord Young of Graffham, and who edged aside more traditional G and G members like Sir Ian Gilmour. Pop stars jostle with retired ambassadors. Former headmasters mix with "celebrities".

There has been an explosion in club membership. More and more places on government quangos need filling. Health authorities, education authorities, opted-out schools, housing associations, the Housing Corporation, all need G and G candidates on their boards. This has left aspiring do-gooders with, at once, more

opportunities, and the need for clearer guidance. Such information is far more useful than any attempt to define exactly what it means to be a G and G member, which is near impossible. The point is to enjoy the fame. As Milton wrote: "Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise (That last infirmity of noble mind) To scorn delights, and live laborious days." And society gets free legwork thanks to man's vanity.

Here are a few tips that Mr Jagger could take note of (even if he has missed out on a few stages), and he will undoubtedly become a club member, enjoying all the



RACHEL KELLY

glory without any need to know exactly what he is doing or why. 1. Choose the right parents. Get step one right, and steps two and three follow naturally. (Go to the

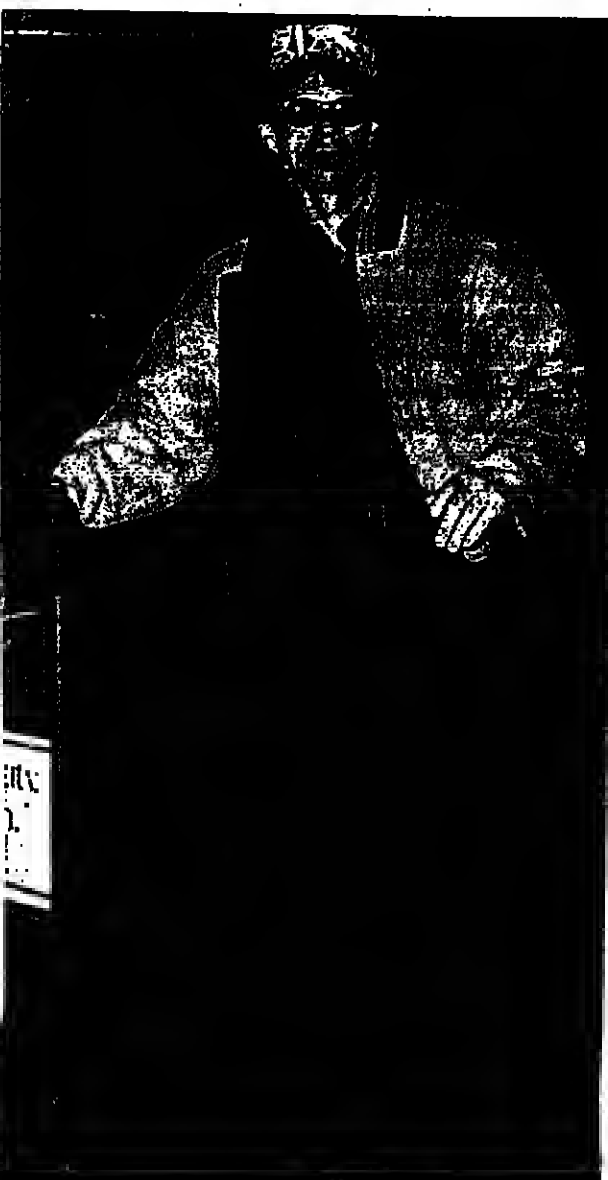
right school and the right university, which still means Oxford or Cambridge.) It helps if you are black and female.

2. Become involved with fund-raising for your old school and old university almost as soon as you have left. You will thereby expose yourself to generations of former pupils, who can become patrons. 3. The only difficult committee to get onto is the first one. Once on board, all committees lead to more committees. The local health authority leads to the regional health authority and so on. It is assumed you must be good at something. 4. Choose your committees care-

fully, a judicious mix of charity work; something a little high profile (your cause must be a fashionable one — keep an eye on what the Princess of Wales is involved with); and something a little, but not too, political. 5. Politicians only truly become G and G members when they are politically neutered — viz Lord Jenkins and even Lady Thatcher. If you are too political, you risk isolation if the wrong party stays in power too long. But get to know your MP through the local association, eat strawberry teas and rubber chicken and become interested in "issues". In time, your MP is bound to put your name forward for... another committee. 6. Wives of MPs and ministers are

a useful back door to political influence. Sandra Howard is Queen Bee at the moment: Rosemary Lamont's star has waned. 7. Even if you are not on a committee, leak the idea that you are on the short-list. 8. Meanwhile, back at your job make money. It is not essential to be rich to become part of the G and G, but it helps; as does throwing good parties (viz Jeffrey Archer). 9. Join clubs, and network. Remember, make friends on the way up, because you never know when you might need them on the way down. 10. You should by now have a title or an honour at the very least. This in turn will lead to more attributes of G and G membership: an entry in *Who's Who*, a trophy wife if you are a man, a famous husband if you are a woman. Last but not least, set up a committee to lobby you into *The Dictionary of National Biography* on your death.

Fashion takes a nosedive in departure lounges. Julia Llewellyn Smith on how to tone down for liftoff



Primed for the paparazzi: (left to right) Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall, Joan Collins, Lord Linley and Serena Stanhope make sure that they hit the front pages in the right clothes. *Hoi polloi* make themselves obvious in other ways

Flights of fancy at the airport

Yesterday, I was ashamed to be British. We had not lost at football, or cricket or tennis, we had not devalued the pound or withdrawn from the EC. None of our politicians had been discovered in *le granite* and Emma Thompson had not announced she was about to make a new film. Instead, I was at Gatwick, the busiest airport in Britain after Heathrow, where the

British public stumped, snored and stared at the flashing screens as they passed the interminable gap between check in and take off. In their working lives, these people are probably models of

understated elegance. But, once a year, sartorial restraint is lost under a pile of holiday brochures, traveller's cheques and Diageo. The woman on the Clapham Omnibus might wear a linen

skirt, silk blouse and Gucci loafers all in different shades of beige, but the woman on the Gatwick Express will invariably be dressed in gold, peep-toe sandals, tangerine slacks, dotted with green sunflowers and a magenta sweatshirt upon which the motif, Ricky's Disco '74, is still faintly visible. Every exposed bit of flesh is freshly waxed, and has the luminous, bumpy appearance of a newly-plucked chicken.

Her companion has offset his lime-green and black shell-suit bottoms with a Hawaiian shirt, whose design echoes an aerial view of the Texas chainsaw massacre. A spell abroad seems to do little to broaden style horizons. If anything, returning holiday-makers look even worse than their outgoing counterparts. Arrivals halls are littered with homecomers in hot pants and halter necks, desperate to give their tan as much exposure as possible and forgetting that the perfect outfit for the disco in Magaluf rarely doubles up for the long-term car park at Luton.

The English on holiday represent the worst side of how we tend to look," says Sarah Walker, a fashion editor at *Harpers and Queen* magazine. "The problem when they travel is they think 'no one will see me' and make no effort."

"When I arrive at the airport I always look around and think 'I don't want to die with these people,'" says Sarah Doukas of the Sturm model agency. "They are the flossam and jolsam of humanity."

James Murray, a spokesman for Virgin Atlantic Airways, whose chairman, Richard Branson, is not noted for a formal style of dress, defends people's choice of airline wear. "People dress to be relaxed and in that they are following the advice of the airlines. We tell customers not to wear tight or restrictive clothing for their own comfort. Our in-flight beauty therapists advise people to put their feet in paper bags to keep the circulation going and to put cucumber on their eyes."

Unfortunately to the British, relaxed is the antithesis of chic. "They think they want to be comfortable, so they decide to wear their favourite kit, which usually consists of a holey, paint-splattered jumper and scruffy track-suit bottoms," says Miss Walter. The problem is that most Britons cannot see the point of buying a new holiday wardrobe when they know it will only be on display for a fortnight, so the same T-shirts and pedal pushers are wheeled out, year after year. A Mintel report recently revealed that the British spend less on clothes than any other country in Europe. When they

do buy, they tend to go by the unwritten rule that holiday clothes must follow the spectrum of colours of a packet of Opal Fruits.

Iain R. Webb, fashion editor of *The Times* says: "Travellers should always wear dark or neutral colours that don't draw attention to themselves. On Saturday, the entire fashion world assembles at the airport to catch the 'couture express' to the collections. Everyone is in black and white; we look like a bunch of nuns on tour."

What else can we do to combine comfortable travel with observing the aesthetic proprieties? Ms Doukas follows the example of her models and wears trainers, sweat pants and a big jumper, enhanced by smart jewellery and a jacket to wear on arrival. "On the plane, I spray my face and dollop on moisturiser constantly. I am very narcissistic. I never touch alcohol and eat very little. I would love to get legless because I hate flying, but I don't dare because I would end up looking like a pink-eyed rabbit."

Nonetheless, it would have taken more than the strip lighting of JFK airport in New York to prevent Ms Doukas from spotting Kate Moss, the most super of models, among the hordes at the check-in. "She was wearing jeans and no make-up, but she still shone out," she sighs. Jeans

and no make-up may be fine for the majority who have no wish to be spotted emerging puffily-jowled from a ten-hour flight, but they are of no help to an aspiring starlet. Dennis Stone, an airport

paparazzo, who has been trawling the corridors of Heathrow for nearly 50 years says: "We're not interested in a pair of trousers; we want a low-cut dress and high heels. Sex sells newspapers and if you come off a plane showing all your bits, then that guarantees publication." "Brightie Nielsen came off in a tracksuit the other day and that was on good at all; we all want to get a flash of her lovely legs."

What's made of straw, has been seen perched on women, and was the rage at the Glastonbury festival?

Panamas back on stream

Elgar wore one. Churchill used to point in one. The Panama hat has always had a special place in the Englishman's wardrobe, but with all the major haters of London reporting rising sales, it seems to be undergoing something of a revival.

The current vogue for the Panama transcends its traditional limits in foyedom and on the occasional catwalk. Sales naturally rise around summer events like Henley and Wimbledon, but who could have foreseen that panamas would have been so much in evidence at the Glastonbury festival?

At the more conservative end of the market, Tim Boucher, of the haters Bates, of Jermyn Street, has noticed that many people who might have worn a boater in the past nowadays prefer the Panama's soft straw and light weight. But more radically he comments: "We now even have some ladies among our customers." Alex Baker of the Genuine Panama Hat Co, a mail order firm, has just dispatched one to a customer in Azerbaijan. He also supplies many of the South American Ambassadors and clients in America.

A Panama hat plays a leading role in a Yellow Pages advertisement currently appearing in a repeat run on television. In a former advertisement in the same series, a writer attempted to track down copies of his out of print work on fly fishing. So powerful was the advertisement's appeal that a minor publishing boom ensued, with the book in question, *Fly Fishing* by J.R. Hartley, being hastily written and rushed to the bookshops. It has now sold over 80,000 copies. So can the power of television be thanked for the Panama's popularity?

Not according to the Panama purveyors. "If anything," says Mr Baker, "the popular-



Classic: the Panama (right) on Test duty

ty of the Panama prompted the advert." The Panama does not rely on its old world elegance alone for its success. Mr Boucher believes that self preservation may play a part, "because of the increased concern about overexposure to the sun and the ozone." He believes that his customers are taking a more responsible attitude to protecting themselves in hot weather and alight upon the Panama as the optimum piece of headgear, striking as it does an ideal balance between being useful and being elegant.

REAL panamas are made in Ecuador from fine *toquilla* straw and then finished off in the UK. There are two styles: the ridged, which can be rolled up, and the more elegant wide-brimmed tribby. At the top end of the market, James Lock of St James's will custom hand-make a Monte Christi for £300. Their off-the-peg model goes for £90. The Genuine Panama Hat Company has a classic tribby which costs £49.95, while their roll-up Panama with its own case is £59.95.

GEORGE TREFGARNE

GUIDE TO UNFAVOURABLE FLYING

DO Take dark glasses to make yourself look important
● Wear fabrics such as jersey or Lycra that do not crumple
● Carry an all-enveloping coat: camouflage on arrival
● Stay cool by wearing as little as possible
● Keep an overnight bag and a water spray close at hand
● Carry socks, unless you want to walk around the plane barefoot
● Consider sleeping pills
● Tell the airline staff not to wake you for the sales trolleys
● Slap on moisturiser
● Carry a smart jacket to slip on at check-in: if you look

smart, you have more chance of being upgraded
● Get style tips from pictures of Joan Collins. "She always looks immaculate," says Dennis Stone, an airport paparazzo

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● Wear linen or any fabric that creases
● Wear anything that inhibits going to the lavatory. This includes body stockings, dungarees and swimsuits
● Wear tight shoes. Your feet will swell on the plane; if you take the shoes off,

they may not get back on again
● Wear nylon or rayon; airports are full of static
● Get drunk. Alcohol is far more potent at altitude and is dehydrating
● Wear bright colours: brown, black, grey and navy always look smarter
● Wear anything that stains easily — airline meals tend to splatter everywhere
● Get style tips from GAZZA, who always seems to equate arriving at Heathrow with going to the beach
● Shave on the plane. Wait until you have landed and nip into the first washroom while waiting for your luggage

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Matthew d'Ancona



■ The feud direct and defence chivalric are what the aristocracy is for

What exactly is an "ex-stepmother"? I suppose we shall never know, now that Comte Jean-François de Chambrun has written to *The Times* denying the allegation (in other newspapers) of a rift between the Princess of Wales and his bride Raine, the former Countess of Spencer. Between shifts as a dinner-lady in Zimbabwe, the princess was reported to have disowned her step-mother, declaring her "ex" in much the way that John Cleese declared the dead parrot "ex". But it now seems that the countess has not quite ceased to be. According to her loyal and obliging husband, she may yet sip coffee again with HRH at Kensington Palace.

Gossip columnists will now have their say, liberally quoting friends, aides and sources close to. But the truth of the matter is less important than the rituals of this little flurry. There are few things that amuse the English more than an aristocratic feud. Real or imagined, the acid remarks attributed to the princess were the stuff of courtly intrigue, a classic example of the aristocracy parading its squabbles. Next, the Comte de Chambrun's gallant letter to *The Times* illustrated the opposite tendency in the upper class: a flawless act of chivalry and sincerity by the knight errant to protect the good name of his lady.

This is as it should be. This is what aristocrats are meant to do. They propagate and claim to live by a strict code of conduct. They slay the occasional dragon, defend the occasional damsel and disappear once in a blue moon to fetch the Holy Grail. Keeping up appearances is important, as the Comte de Chambrun appreciates. Had there been a *Times* to write to in Arthurian days, Sir Lancelot would surely have penned a letter to the Editor claiming that rumours of a rift between himself and the king were completely unfounded and that he and Queen Guinevere were just good friends.

Historically, chivalry has been the rule-book of the aristocratic life rather than its reality. In truth, blue-bloods have always been a reckless, quarrelsome lot, breaking the rules and each other's bones with abandon. Indeed, medieval historians have long acknowledged that chivalry was mostly window-dressing, a means of making more bearable the appalling way that the nobility and gentry behaved towards each other.

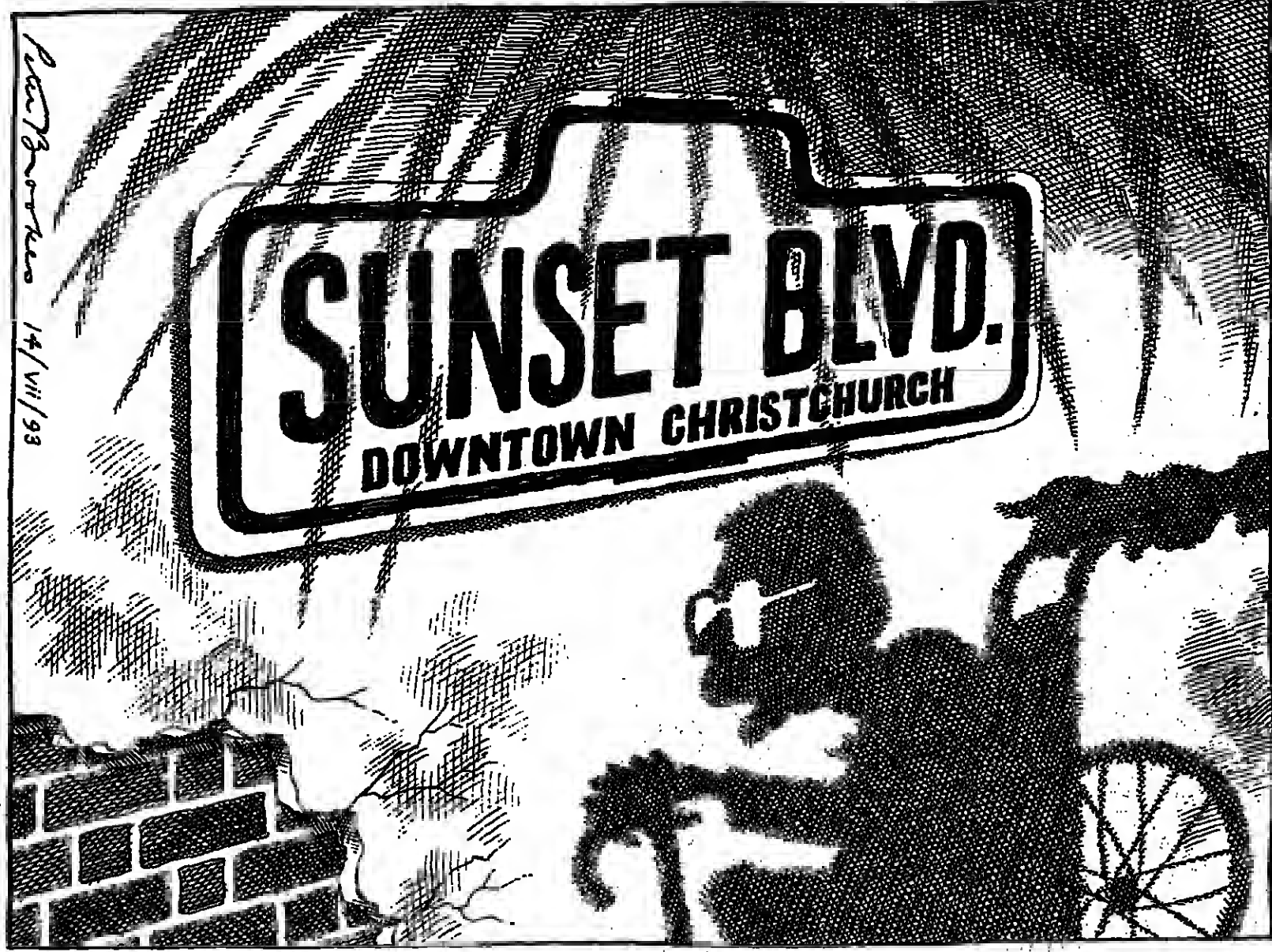
In 1464, for instance, the great Portuguese families of Solis and Monroy were so rude to each other at a wedding that they sparked a bloody feud which swept the Iberian peninsula for years. In his spare time, Sir Thomas Malory, the great chronicler of the Arthurian order, was a complete bandit whose creative talents were nurtured by a long spell in prison. The aristocrats he wrote for rarely behaved as well as the aristocrats he wrote about. When they weren't reading about knightly protocol, they were ignoring it.

James VI of Scotland put it well when he complained about the upper crust "banging it out bravely" to settle their disputes. He would not have been remotely surprised by this week's claim that the future Queen was feuding bitterly with her stepmother. Ostracism, bitterness, insults: is that not the aristocratic way? When Matthew Arnold wrote that the nobleman's mansion was a "great fortified post of the barbarians", he recorded a great social truth. The fact that chivalry requires aristocrats to pretend otherwise is neither here nor there.

So the English longing for a blue-blooded scrap once in a while is not merely voyeuristic (although nobody would deny its entertainment value); it stems from a folk memory of how the upper classes used to behave before they had to do socially responsible things such as debating Maastricht long into the night or looking after stately homes for English Heritage. It harks back to a time when the threat of aristocratic feuding was the only form of law and order — what anthropologists call "the peace in the feud".

That is why the rumour that the Princess of Wales had ostracised one of her relatives filled the British momentarily with a nostalgic sense of well-being. As long as the palaces of the great still echo occasionally with the noise of bickering and insults, all is well with the world. There is nothing like a good aristocratic row to keep the classless society at bay a bit longer.

Alan Coren is on holiday.



Seven against Tokyo

The backroom boys of international politics met in secret to discuss the discussions among G7 leaders

The Group of Seven world leaders returned from Tokyo this week after discussing the global economic crisis. They promised to behave better and ate much sushi. The summit sherpas packed their bags and the spin-doctors set off for home well-satisfied.

But what of the alternative summit held the same weekend (let us call it the Z7)? Leaderologists gathered from around the world at an undisclosed venue to discuss the calibre of those at the G7. Their conclusions were not flattering. Pygmies, anti-heroes, men of no vision were among the kindest epithets heard. But the leaderologist is a pragmatist, Machiavelli, McJuhun and MORI are his gurus. History is his guide, prayer his only recreation. Where the G7 has sherpas, Z7 has lammas. The agenda was constructive.

The chairman opened the conference, pointing out that "Not one of the G7 leaders can claim a popularity rating above 38 per cent. How can they possibly rule the world with so little consent?" It was the job of leaderology to restore democratic legitimacy to world leadership, or they could "kiss goodbye to the Gatt round and the new world order". He sat down to thunderous applause.

The scene was doleful. Delegates from Japan and Italy pointed out that their leaders were either in custody or ought to be. Those from France and Canada said their leaders had just been thrashed at the polls. Britain's John Major was less popular than any prime minister since 1938. Germany's Chancellor Kohl was no better off. President Clinton's first 100 days had been a disaster. As smug communiques came in from Tokyo, delegates shook their heads. Talk of Bosnia was received with groans, as was that hardy perennial, "progress on trade liberalisation". A psychologist warned that many leaders were so weak as to be showing symptoms of "compensatory aggression syndrome". This involved seeing non-white people on television and wanting to bomb the hell out of them.

The conference subgroup on Britain, however, was a gem. Experts detected not one John Major but two: Major Major and Major Minor. The former had been studied since he took office in November 1990 as an intelligent, competent prime minister of the new, understated type. He had shown dignity during the Gulf war, had chaired the 1991 G7 summit to widespread praise, had cleverly abandoned the poll tax and won concessions at the Maastricht summit.

Despite the handicap of a deep recession and a party 13 years in office, he won a surprise election victory in 1992.

On leaving the ERM last autumn and successfully blaming his Chancellor for it this spring, he seemed set fair for an electoral recovery. Major Major was said to be liked by his colleagues. He was hard-working and decisive. He kept "pushing through with his policies", a concept beloved of the British political elite. When he executed a U-turn, he did so with frankness. His team was nice and did not eat babies. Cabinet business was dispatched efficiently. He was a marked contrast to many other leaders.

This was what leaderologists call "the John Major as known to his friends". The other John Major, Major Minor, was a different kettle of fish. He was in big trouble. In public he could get nothing right. Each passing event seemed to wrong-foot him: pit closures, Maastricht referendum, Mates resignation, New Statesman libel, VAT on fuel, the future of pensions. Whereas Margaret Thatcher spent her summers performing a graceful slalom down such banana skins, Mr Major crashed to the floor on each one. He got a dreadful press. Cartoonists portrayed him as weak, grey and lacking authority. His popularity in the latest MORI survey was just 20 per cent, and his government's at 10 per cent — both historic lows. His party, down to 25 per cent support, had dipped below the mid-term slump seen in 1981 and 1985.

Could these two John Majors ever be reconciled in the electorate's mind? The leaderologists saw little problem. The conventional wisdom held that with the end of the nuclear threat, people had come to treat their leaders with contempt. When they are lied to, as over taxes, or made poorer, they feel more free to condemn leaders who pledged the opposite. Opinion polls and non-crucial elections (such as local ones) are the regular vehicles for this punishment. Countries with governments that are

corrupt (Japan and Italy) or built on immature or fragmented constitutional bases (France, Germany, America) face political instability when they punish weak leaders in this way. But this does not necessarily mean that electorates will throw such leaders out of office.

By comparison with most of his contemporaries, Mr Major's predicament was seen as none too serious. He need only hold onto his hat and develop the hide of a rhino. The Essex University election model, which relates economic confidence to voting patterns, should soon show Tory fortunes improving, along with an improvement in economic

expectation. Nor is there much sign of the true threat to the Tories: Tory protesters defecating to Labour rather than the Liberal Democrats. As at Newbury, a Liberal Democrat victory this month at Christchurch will mean nothing so long as Labour does badly.

On this showing, Major Major's qualities will sooner or later draw the poison from Major Minor. He is almost certainly a political recovery stock just now. His best bet would be to emulate his predecessor, ignore the media altogether and concentrate on resting and debugging his cabinet and Downing Street team. Whenever he shows himself hurt by criticism — as he does in almost every speech — he invites another bite. Paranoia is bad for any leader's authority. What the Tory party wants now is not another Mrs Thatcher, nor even another leader, just a successful version of John Major.

Y et whatever our leaderologists may say, Mr Major is not likely to switch to psychopological autopilot from now until the next election. In particular, he is menaced by the most serious threat to any Tory leader: a potential successor waiting in the wings. Nor can a leader be content with gazing round the G7 summit table and murmuring, "Gosh, at least they are all in bigger holes than mine".

Simon Jenkins

Presiding instead of reigning

The BBC needs vision, not ideology, says Ian McIntyre

John Birt may not know this, but when workmen started excavating for the foundations of Broadcasting House in 1929, they got a nasty surprise. Underneath the blue clay, at a depth of 50 ft, they uncovered a century-old main sewer. It ran from Hampstead in north London to the Thames, and although it was an immensely solid brick structure, it would clearly not bear the load of John Reith's "temple of the arts and the muses". There was nothing for it but to encase it, foot by foot, in a reinforced concrete sheath.

Sixty-four years on, there are those who think that the BBC's 12th and most controversial director-general is engaged in a dotty parody of that 1929 exercise. They also believe that his attentions are not confined to the fabric. As the concrete showers over them, many of the staff are struggling vigorously.

At the weekend, Bill Cotton, the former managing director of BBC Television, attacked Mr Birt's belief that the corporation's core activity was journalism. Yesterday, one of the BBC's best-known journalists received a standing ovation for a speech in which he spoke of a personality cult, a sense of fear among the staff and a "high premium on sycophancy".

The BBC's spin-doctors were quick to point out that Mark Tully knows a great deal about India, but rather less about the corporation he has represented there since the 1970s. Mr Tully may not have said anything new, and his view of the BBC through the prism of Indian politics is certainly idiosyncratic, but he has redirected attention to a number of important issues. The biggest issue of all is the personality and management style of the director-general himself.

Mr Birt has sometimes been described as Cronwellian, and this has led some of his placemen to hint only at parallels with the greatest of his predecessors. They do not bear serious scrutiny. It is now known that John Reith was a seriously flawed personality, but he was indisputably a man of vision. John Birt, as his director-generalship progresses, gives an increasingly convincing impersonation of a zealot. Reith and the best of his successors — Haley, Jacob, Curran — knew that they were servants of the public interest. Mr Birt, much more narrowly, appears to see himself as the servant of an idea.

When Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC's shrewd chairman, went on *The Nine O'Clock News* to defend his appointment of Mr Birt in the summer of 1991, he puzzled many by homing in on his "experience of the commercial side of the industry". Mr Birt seems in fact to have offered Mr Hussey the prospect of an orderly workforce all marching to the same drum.

I was obtuse of the chairman not to grasp that Mr Birt's arid didacticism about programmes has little to contribute to the quality of the output. The old BBC joke about an instructor being no more than a basis for discussion masks an important editorial truth. It is a truth which seems to have remained concealed from both Mr Hussey and Mr Birt although they are unalike in many ways, each brings to his work a singularly authoritarian temper. The best BBC chairman — J.H. Whitley in the 1930s, Michael Swann 40 years later — saw their role as analogous to that of a constitutional monarch, and behaved with appropriate detachment. Mr Hussey has performed much more like an executive president.

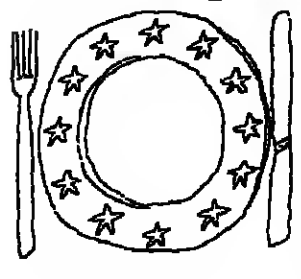
The BBC's chairman and director-general both appear to be in a state of invincible ignorance about the life nature of public service broadcasting. Their condition offers a vivid and depressing illustration of the organisation's loss of corporate nerve and its progressive amnesia about what it is there for. Well said, Tullysahib.

The author is a former controller of Radios 3 and 4. His biography of Lord Reith will be published in September.

Quite a TV dinner

BARONESS Thatcher, whose appointment with European destiny arrives today, may shortly command a far greater stage than that offered by a rebellious House of Lords.

Plans are afoot to film Thatcher at a candlelit dinner party in the United States with her old friend Ronald Reagan, Henry Kissinger and Milton Friedman, the monetarist guru. Two dates have been pencilled into her diary: one in September and the other during the American promotional tour of her memoirs,



which come out in October. Bill Buckley, the founder of the *National Review* and veteran presenter of the American political chat show, *Firing Line*, is organising the supper. Buckley will have the unenviable task of trying to control the flow of conversation around the dinner table.

The dinner is scheduled to last for about four hours but, with subjects expected to range from Bosnia to Maastricht and from Clinton to Major via Bush's disastrous election campaign, could go on much longer. The resulting conversation will be condensed into 60 minutes, which will be sold to an American television station for prime time broadcast.

Bill Buckley's office is cautious about discussing the proposals. "It was talked about in February. It is now on hold," is the official line. But an aide in Lady Thatcher's office says: "They are talking about Ronald Reagan's place at California or even Washington. It could be as early as September or during the pro-

motional tour. They are talking dates. But we are a bit frantic and cannot give a firm commitment just yet."

Horror story

JOHN Birt's problems clearly do not end with Mark Tully. Chris Horrie, author of *Stick it up Your Punter*, the inside story of life on *The Sun*, has secured a publisher for an expose of life at the BBC — *Fuzzy Monsters: Fear and Loathing at the BBC*.

According to Horrie, however, who is co-writing the book with freelance journalist Steve Clarke, it will "not be a bumper book of BBC gossip. It is a drama, a story about people. It is dramatic because everyone cares about the BBC. Many people are almost obsessed with it."

The book will be published by Heinemann next spring, to coincide with the end of the consultation period on the BBC's future, and will tell the story of the corporation from Marmaduke Hussey's arrival as chairman in 1986 until now.

The title refers to Sir Michael Checkland's attack last year on Hussey, who he said was too old to lead the corpo-



DIARY

ration into the next century — "When we are talking about FM, I want to be talking about frequency modulation not fuzzy monsters". A suitable title, Horrie feels, because "the book contains some fairly monstrous figures".

● The Birtion regime at the so-called Big Brother Corporation is said to be considering a rating system to monitor the performance of journalists who report on its affairs. Media correspondents could well fall under Birt's watchful gaze, but Mark Tully need not fear — the BBC's own reporters are not included. Yet.

By the rules

THE NATION'S best known industrial troubleshooter, Sir John Harvey-Jones, appears to have encountered difficulty

in persuading the country's business bible to adopt his managerial philosophy.

On Monday at a party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of *The Economist*, Harvey-Jones admitted that the magazine, of which he is chairman, has broken two of his golden business rules. "Anything that is called an institution, I am rather concerned about. And also anything that spends money on its headquarters." *The Economist* qualifies on both counts.

The former chairman of ICI knows he too is becoming something of an institution. So he's retiring from the job next year.

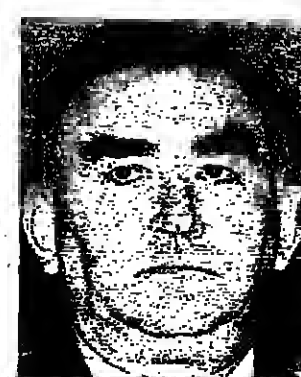
Badgered

BEING a badger is uncommonly tough nowadays with

such workaday hazards as motorcars, bending and hostile farmers to avoid. But being a badger in the New Forest is about to become a whole lot tougher, it seems.

The New Forest District Council has just insisted that planning permission is required for a specially constructed badger set in a private garden backing onto the forest. The glass-sided set, erected two years ago by the garden's owner, artist Ailsa Kilburn, has only recently fallen foul of officialdom. Kilburn has therefore dutifully applied to the council formally, pleading for the "continued use of land in connection with badger watching".

The council warns sternly that badger watching "does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in the area", and Kilburn is understandably worried. "I take groups of people into my garden at night and we sit and watch nature in absolute silence. I can't think of anything more inoffensive," he says. "It defies logic." Not at all, says the council. "We had a complaint so we looked into it. And we decided planning permission was needed."



That's how the world wags

He may have been keeping a low profile lately in the House of Commons, but Michael Mates is no shrinking violet when it comes to controversial meals. The former Northern Ireland minister (right) was spotted in hearty spirits yesterday at a smart hotel in London's West End, enjoying a meal with Simon Regan, the editor of *Scallywag* and two other members of the magazine's staff.

What this conspiratorial gathering of John Major's scourges could have talked about, one can only guess — for Regan insists that it was an "off the record" chat. But John Major's libel action against the magazine is now imminent and must have crept up in conversation.

Mates was apparently in splendid form. "He was excellent company, really good fun," says Regan (left). "We had two courses and two bottles of wine between the four of us — which isn't too bad." Mates's office in the House of Commons, however, was reluctant to comment on his private luncheon arrangements.

سكذ من الإيمل



UNCHARTED TERRITORY

In Somalia the UN needs to be more forceful

Great courage was shown yesterday by Somalis helping to retrieve the bodies of the four journalists murdered in Mogadishu. These were individual human acts but they should at least qualify some of the more simplistic assumptions that the UN's Somalia operation has become a war of occupation.

Three of the bodies had been moved to parts of the city where the Somali warlord's gunmen range freely, far from the scene of the UN's original airborne assault on the command centre used by General Farah Aidid. It seemed that the General may have planned to use their corpses as bait for another ambush on UN troops. The rescuers, at great risk from sniper fire, spoke for the great majority of Somalis who know that the country's only hope lies not in negotiating with warlords who have everything to lose by peace, but in destroying their power.

After 20 years of brutal dictatorship and two of armed anarchy, ordinary Somalis still live in constant threat of assassination by bandit groups and have fewer qualms than Western liberals about a short battle for a long peace. The UN must stand by them in return, resolute in its protective mission and partisan only in defence of their desires to reconstruct their shattered lives without hindrance. That must mean establishing UN control by steady patrolling in appropriate strength, not occasional sorties from the UN's heavily fortified compounds coupled with excessive reliance on airpower.

The UN's attacks on the strongholds and armories of General Aidid, the warlord who holds sway in southern Mogadishu, are not turning him into a symbol of anti-colonial Somali nationalism. He is only one among warlords, and his writ extends for no more than a few miles. He can summon crowds in the south of the city, but there were pro-UN demonstrations in northern Mogadishu after the UN's first strikes against him last month. His enemies are not

limited to rival warlords. Across the country, hundreds of thousands have lost family members to gunmen or starvation; they do not forget that it was General Aidid who for months used the control of Mogadishu's port to enrich and arm himself while people starved.

The tougher mandate given to the UN forces last month, after General Aidid's men killed and mutilated 24 Pakistani soldiers in a deliberately planned ambush, was not only justified but overdue. But in using force, the UN must be seen to be carrying out last month's overdue pledge to take decisive action to rid Somalia of heavy weapons and restore security to its streets and countryside. Every operation must be planned with this in mind.

It is no easy matter to create law and order when both the modern machinery of government and the traditional hierarchies of clan power have been all but destroyed. The journey is to uncharted territory. It bears little relation to standard peacekeeping. The UN secretary-general has had to utter barely veiled rebukes to Italy and other governments whose troop commanders have taken to disputing field tactics. There is not yet the cohesive administrative and logistical chain of command which was the Americans' strength in the earlier Operation Restore Hope. In the beginning the Americans made considerable headway in convincing the rival warlords that force would be met by superior force. But, because they failed to capitalise on their success by destroying their arsenals, this created no more than a breathing space.

The UN, therefore, needs to be more forceful, not less. The taming of General Aidid is indispensable, but only as part of a broader strategy of striking hard against all the warring factions without discrimination. Confidence will revive when, and only when, Somalia ceases to be a giant arms dump in a wasteland of misery.

THIS SIDE OF THE WATER

Brussels should not regulate British water standards

John Major has claimed that the doctrine at the heart of the new Europe is "subsidiarity" — the idea that political decisions should be taken at the lowest level of government competent to implement and oversee them. If this is so it is hard to see what business the European Commission has in imposing standards for drinking water in Britain — except that Brussels is still as obsessed as ever with imposing on all EC members whatever "minimum standards" may be agreed by any small group.

In the case of drinking water and effluent pollution, there is a strong case for international agreement on regulations among the core European countries which share the waters of the Rhine and Rhone basins. But such regulations, apart from those covering airborne and seaborne pollutants, need not affect Britain.

In the days before Maastricht, Brussels would defend such interference on the grounds that exempting Britain from such regulations might lower industrial costs and give British businesses an unfair advantage in competition with their continental rivals. The British response should be quite clear. If Britain can enjoy less environmental regulation than, say, Holland because it happens to be an island rather than an area of low land lying at the mouth of the Rhine, these are inherent national differences. For the EC to try to "harmonise" them away is no more sensible than trying to make Dutch the official language in Britain on the grounds that English gives London banks an unfair advantage over those in Amsterdam.

Since Maastricht, however, the nascent European Union has developed a new interest in "social" issues. It is now argued that Brussels must protect the health of the British people if Westminster refuses to do

so. This argument is at the heart of the Friends of the Earth campaign — and it is one which any politician who believes in subsidiarity must reject. The purity of British drinking water ought to be settled in Britain. If the environmental lobbyists want British nitrate levels reduced they should lobby the British government and put their arguments to British voters. Brussels should play no part in this debate, except as a source of scientific evidence, to be considered alongside other expert opinions.

The ploy of the Friends of the Earth campaign is that its case against the water industry has some intrinsic merit. But the crucial issue is not whether British water standards need improvement, which in many areas they clearly do, but how those improvements ought to be financed.

The present structure of water charges was introduced mainly to facilitate privatisation and reassure potential investors in water companies who might be put off by Labour Party threats of renationalisation. To minimise risks to investors, the financial regime discourages water companies from borrowing money for long-term investments, allowing them to raise charges instead. This is irrational and unjust. Since investments in water will deliver benefits to customers for many decades to come, they should be financed mainly by borrowing or new equity capital. Higher charges should be levied on today's customers only to pay the dividends and interest on the new capital, not to provide the capital itself.

The charging regime of the water industry is due for review next year. A better financial structure could do much to resolve the tension between the public's desire for better water and its resistance to ever-higher bills. But that has nothing to do with Brussels.

A SPAN TOO FAR

Strength comes first, beauty is an incidental quality of bridges

British bridges are a disgrace, according to the Royal Fine Art Commission's report of its seminar on bridge design. And the Department of Transport is blamed as the chief villain, in charge of all those ponderous and badly proportioned slabs. There have been lost opportunities, we are told, for spectacular spans at such important crossings as the M25 at Dartford, the East London Thames crossing at Woolwich and the bridge over the sea to Skye. What we have instead are industrial Lego constructions across the face of well-loved, or at any rate well-known, friends. In a potential golden age of bridge-building, heralded by new materials and technologies, Britain is said to head the international league of ugliness.

Is this criticism not a little excessive, even, as it were, "over the top"? The traditional magic of a bridge is that it conveys its traffic safely to the other side. As the old proverb puts it, let every man praise the bridge that carries him over. After safe crossing, beauty comes as a bonus. Old London Bridge was admired as a medieval wonder of the world not for its aesthetic qualities — its stuns along both sides, its traitors' heads on spikes at the southern end and its outworks of piles which caused waterfalls at ebb tide. It was rated a wonder because it spanned a broad river with a fierce tide and lasted for so many centuries.

There are 50,000 major bridges in the United Kingdom, most of them carrying unlovely motorways and trunk roads on their way. The Department of Transport's suspension bridges over the Humber, the Forth and the Severn are still in the top dozen in the world for length and strength and beauty. But not all can be expensively and individually designed by bespoke architects.

Economy and efficiency are their virtues. The old bridging techniques were of span, cantilever and suspension; the old materials were of stone and brick; together they made it almost impossible to build an ugly bridge. But monstrous and continual modern traffic needs stronger bridges. New materials and the new techniques of box girder and cable stay are producing longer and stronger spans.

Because of their expense, bridges are built to last longer than other buildings. Yes, there should be a competition and a single mind to design a grand bridge, such as Sydney Harbour or the proposed Gibraltar Bridge linking Spain and Africa. Lesser motorway bridges should be built by the strongest and most elegant systems of mass production devised by architects and engineers. The architects and aesthetes of the Royal Fine Art Commission are right to insist on the beauty of bridges. But the Department of Transport has a duty too.

Parliament votes on Maastricht

From Viscount Furness

Sir, I live in Switzerland as a tax exile and, although I respect a writ of summons to the House of Lords, have taken advantage of the privilege of asking for, and being granted, leave of absence for the present Parliament. Therefore, I shall not be in my place for the vote on Maastricht tomorrow, as I think it would be improper for me to do so.

Further, I feel that the whips, by scouring the highways and byways of four continents for lobby fodder, as you report today, are fanning the flames of the opponents of a partly hereditary House of Peers. I am sure we all know taxation without representation to be abhorrent. So, surely, is whipping in tax exiles as "representatives".

Yours faithfully,
FURNESS,
42 Rue de la Fusion,
CH-1920 Martigny 1, Switzerland.
July 13.

From Mr John Yates-Smith

Sir, The iniquitous way in which the European Community divides up its ill-gotten gains is reflected by the generous share allocated to the island of Corsica.

While it is true that the islanders' declared revenue is below the European average, their real income, savings and expenditure are evidently well above it, certainly higher than in Britain.

It is a national joke in Corsica that everyone obtains a subsidy for something — for dairy-farming when they have no cows, apiculture if they have no bees — and they feel that it would be churlish to embarrass their benefactors in Brussels by pointing out that in spite of all the grants their island of milk and honey produces neither.

The town of Ajaccio recently allowed the EC to present it with a wonderful bridge which leads nowhere, and spoils the view in doing so, but we Welsh have always been great exponents of Beggar thy Neighbour sans Frontiers. Until the English learn to play, they will continue to pay a great deal into Europe and to get precious little out.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN YATES-SMITH,
93 Cornwall Gardens, SW7.
July 7.

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, The objection to the Maastricht treaty is that Parliament is trying to do two things which are unconstitutional: to bind its successors, and to make British subjects subject to rules which Parliament has neither passed nor properly scrutinised. It is therefore quite proper for us to deny the legitimacy of this and to refuse to be bound by it.

If neither Lords nor Crown come to the rescue, a group should be set up which will campaign and demand of all candidates of whatever persuasion at all future (by-elections that if returned they will vote for the immediate return of all powers improperly sent to Brussels, a review of all legal decisions made under those powers, retrospective legislation to reverse them if necessary and a policy that actions, whether civil or criminal, between British subjects or firms registered here will be determined in the British courts and nowhere else.

The group will need to be headed by some person or persons distinguished enough to command the cross-party support which it deserves. It should avoid domestic issues and pledge itself to disband once our constitution has been repatriated. It would certainly divert the (Tory) party subscription of

Your obedient servant,
JOHN PARFITT,
St Andrews, New Street,
Painswick, Gloucestershire
July 12.

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP (letter, July 10), regards "dotted" a reference to the action of the French National Assembly in 1940 in connection with the Treaty of Maastricht. Why?

Faced with the military débâcle of that summer, the French National Assembly abrogated its own powers so as to create a new regime that could seek shelter under the wings of the victor. Our House of Commons, faced with grave domestic economic and social issues, has shown itself willing to surrender its own law-making powers to a set of foreign bureaucrats.

As General de Gaulle was to prove, the action of the National Assembly did not represent the deepest instincts of the French people; if consulted the British people would equally repudiate Maastricht and the whole gospel of "European integration" of which Mr Dykes is so tireless a propagandist.

As an historian, I know that parallels are never exact — but this one is too close for comfort.

Yours faithfully,
BELLOFF,
House of Lords.
July 12.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Arts Council policy and investment in music and dance

From Ms Libby MacNamara

Sir, It is not of course, the Arts Council's job to decide how many orchestras there should be (report, July 9); the market will decide. But it is for the Arts Council to decide how best to invest public funds to support the art form to the highest possible level of excellence, and to ensure that the artistic criteria which it has decided to promote are fine ones. In the areas of programming, commitment to new work and education activity in the widest sense, Britain's orchestras lead the world.

The council has been characteristically vague about its intentions for the redistribution of the money to be saved by its peremptory decision to axe its funding of two of our major orchestras, as yet unidentified.

It is exciting to hear Anthony Everitt, the council's secretary-general, proclaim publicly that the council intends to support two London orchestras in order to achieve a level of international excellence such as that enjoyed by the Berlin Philharmonic. He would receive three cheers from this quarter if the total current grant to all four of London's symphony orchestras were to be trebled in order to come anywhere near the £11 million received in public funding by the Berlin Phil.

Yours etc,
LIBBY MACNAMARA
(Director),
Association of British Orchestras,
Francis House, Francis Street, SW1.
July 9.

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, John Major and David Mellor must be heartbroken to realise that their creation, the Department of National Heritage, is becoming the worst engine of destruction the British arts world has known. Ballet and theatre companies, and now orchestras, are being stamped out whilst the expenditure on bureaucrats in the arts increases. The DNH itself will cost £30 million this year and art administration £16 million, whereas a mere £5 million cut in subsidy to the Arts Council has caused havoc.

The creative spirit which inspired Sir Thomas Beecham and Walter

Legge to found the three threatened orchestras, the London and Royal Philharmonic orchestras and the Philharmonia, must be utilised to make the presence of the arts grow in daily life in London and throughout the land.

Our company is collaborating in the preparation of an economic study to help HM Treasury see the way to increasing state funding to the arts, sports, environment and tourism and also to eliminating the tax on the national lottery. The first phase of this study will be completed in September, in time for the November budget.

May we urge the government through your columns not to finalise the destructive measures in the artistic world until this study has been completed? If London were to rival Munich in musical matters, it would have 21 orchestras and ten opera houses, all playing to packed houses.

Yours etc,
DENIS VAUGHAN
(Executive Director), The Lottery
Promotion Company Limited,
41 Floral Street, WC2.
July 10.

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, Only now has the proposed cutback by the government of £5 million in its budget prompted the Arts Council to react. Over the years the council has acquiesced to government to an astonishing degree. If it had really been there to protect its clients and was receiving less subsidy than was required, why then did its members not resign wholesale? But they didn't and each year the council has assumed more and more the persona of a lap dog, as arts funding diminishes in real terms.

It is patently obvious that more is brought into the Treasury by means of taxes and tourism than is repaid in the form of grants, but the government has refused to accept the *pari passu* principle. Now, more than ever, survival has become an art form in itself.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
Breckman & Company
(Chartered accountants),
49 South Molton Street, W1.
July 9.

Feelings on childbirth

From Mrs Libby Clapham

Sir, I, like Mary Ann Sieghart ("The worst pain I can imagine", July 1), had a Caesarean delivery for my first child also by epidural anaesthetic after a long and painful labour. I was surprised by the profound grief I felt for my apparent inability to give birth naturally.

For my second birth I also had only gas and air. I, too, gave birth kneeling and had excruciating pain for part of the labour.

But never would I choose to give birth by Caesarean section again — to be recovering from a major abdominal operation, to be ill during the first important weeks of my new baby's life.

Seven years later I still wake up some mornings and think: "I did it." If Ms Sieghart has another birth she can choose to have an epidural. If I have another I can choose to have a painkiller-free delivery. Neither is "better" than the other.

Yours faithfully,
LIBBY CLAPHAM,
The Rectory, Lymington,
Exmouth, Devon.

From Mrs K. C. Ridges

Sir, My first son was born in hospital after a six-hour labour and two petidrine injections and the whole process felt as if it was happening to someone else.

My second son was also born in

hospital after a nightmarish 23-hour labour in which the midwife seemed to think that heavy doses of painkillers would "knock me out", instead of which they made it harder for me to control the pain.

My GP was sympathetic when I requested a home birth for my third babe. She was born in the presence of her brothers, her father and two kind, helpful midwives, after a six-hour labour, during which I did not have any gas, air or painkillers, though it was nice to know that they were there if wanted.

Yes, the pain is bad, and I was exhausted, but all that disappeared when my daughter arrived. For me, natural birth was simply that.

Yours sincerely,
K. C. RIDGES,
4 Rosehill, Montague Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Alyson Ripley

Sir, A woman's pride in the birth of her children should come not from stoic or unecessary endurance, not from smugly believing that by using analgesia she avoids being duped by birth "gurus". It should come from the knowledge that, given the circumstances of the birth, she had the knowledge and the support to make the best decisions in the interest of herself and her baby.

Yours faithfully,
ALYSON RIPLEY,
73 Chapel Road,
West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex.

Historic houses

From Mr Michael Pearce

Sir, It can only be good news if both the Prince of Wales and the prime minister take an interest in the future of Britain's historic houses (report, July 3).

What are these "pressures on the 1,450 important country houses still in private hands"? No Grade I listed building has been lawfully demolished in recent years. Some have lost their contents, it is true. An extension of statutory listing beyond that which is fixed to include, say, those items which were designed for the house, may be thought desirable. An extension of the tax incentives for maintenance funds would be helpful.

The reported figure of 1,450 does not, so far as I am aware, equate with the number of historic houses of

outstanding importance, that is, those listed Grade I or even II*. It is, however, the same as the figure cited in a Budget submission by the Historic Houses Association in November 1991 as the number of "listed buildings and their associated land (park, farm, estate) occupied by the same family for two generations or more".

Preserving historic buildings, and retaining at least some of their contents, is difficult enough. Keeping their owners and their descendants in residence as well may sometimes be thought desirable, but it is not always possible.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PEARCE
(Honorary President,
Association of Conservation Officers),
52 Hollows Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Left to chance

From Mr S. Gorley Putt

Sir, As a fellow of the college of the Platonist Henry More, and one year older than Lord Rees-Mogg, I rise to the latter's invitation to comment on his account (July 9) of Masterlinck's "unknown guest". During my years as senior tutor I would advise my pupils that since life is so tragic, it is a mistake to take it seriously.

My own "unknown guest" had long ago told me that any attempt to plan one's life in advance was as impious as it was futile. Newspaper columns usefully reduce our statistics to Births and Deaths. We can control neither of these in advance: each is wholly

accidental. If this is so, then planning lesser things is quite absurd.

Yet leaving things to chance may become fairly positive if we awake every morning with a "thank you for the benefit of another night's sleep". Taking things as they come implies a hope that they will continue to arrive — for how long, we cannot tell. Gratitude has become an unfashionable virtue: people clamour for "rights" while ignoring "duties". I have a feeling that gratitude may be one of the blessings bestowed by our "unknown guest".

Yours etc,
S. GORLEY PUTT,
Christ's College, Cambridge.
July 5.

From Dr Peter Brinson and others

Sir, The future of professional dance in Britain is threatened more seriously than at any time this century. The international reputation and national benefit of 50 years' achievement in dance may be lost because more than two-thirds of local authorities today no longer give discretionary awards for vocational training or else offer them at levels too low to be of effective use. Dance schools face closure for lack of grants and the teaching expertise which has raised British dance to such high levels is being dispersed.

All this is not primarily the fault of local authorities but of the constraints placed by central government on local government expenditure. Rather than hide behind the fiction that government cannot tell authorities what to do we ask the government to discuss urgently with authorities this year how to ensure that money provided for discretionary grants reaches the young people for whom it is intended. In the longer term we ask that the system be reorganised so that the talent upon which the future of dance depends is not to be subject to the variable priorities of local authority circumstances.

In urging this action we are following the lead taken by the Arts Council. We know we have the support of all the major dance companies and schools who are too numerous to sign this letter.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BRINSON,
TESSA BLACKSTONE (Chairman,
Ballet Board, Royal Opera House),
ANTHONY DOWELL
(Artistic Director, Royal Ballet Company),
CHRISTOPHER GABLE
(Artistic Director, Northern Ballet School),
IAN MCGARRY (General Secretary,
British Actors Equity Association),
MARION NORTH (Chairman,
Confederation of Professional Dance Schools),
VICTORIA TODD
(Director, Council for Dance
Education and Training),
PETER WRIGHT (Artistic Director,
Birmingham Royal Ballet),
Council for Dance Education
and Training (UK),
5 Tavistock Place, WC1.
July 10.

Crozier disclosures

From Sir Peter Tennant

Sir, Brian Crozier (letter, July 8) suggests that Nicholas Elliott would no longer merit the epithet "notorious" if, after getting Philby's confession, he had arranged "for a start, a discreet 24-hour surveillance of Philby".

How on earth was Elliott, when he was in Zaire, to put together a team of trained men to watch Philby; and how could such a team prevent Philby, with all his expertise in eluding surveillance, walking off stage to Moscow?

Whether or not the British at the time wished to be spared the embarrassment of revelations in a court of law, the revelations were bound to come, as they did in Moscow later in an active measure orchestrated by the KGB disinformation service, with the express intent of causing maximum embarrassment to the British government.

None of this can be said to have damaged Nicholas Elliott's reputation.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TENNANT,
Blue Anchor House,
Lynchmere Road, Haslemere, Surrey.
July 7.

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Brian Crozier mentions the late Desmond Donnelly's attempts to create a new Democratic party. Desmond unveiled his ideas at a small dinner party in the early 1970s attended by the late Maurice Buckmaster, Lord (Ralph) Harris of High Cross and me. He asked for our participation.

I was off to Latin America and sent a note to Desmond saying I did not think the time was right. Later I bumped into Maurice Buckmaster and asked him what he had done. He turned rather green and said he had become treasurer.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.
July 8.

Opera and cricket

From Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester, Gorton (Labour)

Sir, Rodney Milnes's enthusiastic notice of *The Secret Marriage* (July 12) made me look forward to seeing Cimarosa's opera at the Buxton Festival this month. But why did Mr Milnes describe phantom cricket strokes as "anachronisms" in Jonathan Miller's production?

Cricket has been played in this country at least since the 16th century. By Cimarosa's 18th century the game was very much in vogue with the nobility: the Earl of Sandwich used to wager on cricket matches. Count Robinson would very likely have taken almost as keen an interest in cricket as he did in Carolina, the secret bride.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD KAUFMAN,
House of Commons.
July 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 13: Mr Richard Ralph was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Riga.

His Excellency Mr Chang Hee Roe was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his Credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Korea to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Yang Chun Park (Minister), Captain Sung Joong Kim (Defence Attaché), Mr Kyung Jin Park (Culture and Information Attaché), Mr Young Chul Choi (Counsellor), Mr Kook Ho Shin (Counsellor), Mr Dong Man Han (Second Secretary), and Mrs Jeong Kyu Lee (Third Secretary).

Mrs Chung Ja Roe was also received by The Queen. Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Governor of South Australia was received by Her Majesty. Major Thomas St Aubyn was received by The Queen and delivered up his Stick of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Lieutenant of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms.

The following Officers of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms were received by Her Majesty: Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott, BT, who delivered up his Stick of Office as Standard Bearer and received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Lieutenant, and Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson, BT, who received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Standard Bearer.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory MP was received by The Queen and delivered up his Wand of Office as Treasurer of the Household.

Mr Gregory Knight MP was received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as Treasurer of the Household and received from The Queen his Wand of Office.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buck-

ingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of the Coldstream Guards and the Corps of Royal Engineers played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 13: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this afternoon attended the Company Polo Trophy at the Guards Polo Club, Smith's Lawn, Windsor Great Park, the Royal Court of Berkshire.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 13: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning attended a Presentation at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this evening opened the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Galleries of Later Mesopotamia and Ancient Anatolia and attended the Annual Dinner for Patrons at the British Museum.

Mrs Robin Benson and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 13: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Leukaemia Research Fund, this morning visited the Preleukaemia Unit, the University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan (Captain) Norman Lloyd-Edwards.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon attended a lunch given by the Wales Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Hotel, Park Place, Cardiff, and later visited Humble Healthcare (Cardiff) Limited, Portman Road, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Captain the Honourable Tom Coke was in attendance.

Birthdays today

The Earl of Arran, 55; Mr Ingrid Bergman, film producer, 75; Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman, AMEC, 56; Miss Vera D. Palma, taxation accountant, 65; Mr Paul Eddery, 66; Mr Paul Marshall, 67; Sir David Evans, 68; Sir Nigel Fisher, former MP, 80; Mr Gerald Ford, former American President, 80; Sir David Hardy, former chairman, London Docklands Development Corporation, 63; Mr Ilyd Harrington, former chairman, GLC, 62; Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, 61; Lord Hunter of Newington, 78; The Earl of Idlesleigh, 61; Miss Sue Lawley, broadcaster, 47; Major-General C.A.R. Nevill, 86; Mr Bruce Oldfield, fashion designer, 43; Lord Rees-Mogg, 65; the Right Rev James Smith, Bishop of Bradford, 81; Baroness Shedden, 77; Mr Robert Stephens, actor, 80; Sir Richard Totham, former chairman, Milk Marketing Board, 80; Mr Anthony Watford, chairman, Kodak, 55; Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, chemist, 72.

1993 Police Foundation Lecture

The 11th annual Police Foundation Lecture was given by the Home Secretary, The Right Hon Michael Howard, QC, MP, yesterday in Merchant Taylors' Hall, London, EC2. It was preceded by the Ernst & Young Police Foundation Awards presented by Sir Kenneth Newman. The joint winners were Chief Superintendent Tom Williamson, Metropolitan Police, and Chief Inspector Sue Wood, Merseyside Police. The panel included Sir Peter Walters, Chairman of the Trustees, Police Foundation, Mr Elwyn Ellidge, Senior Partner, Ernst & Young, Lord Harris of Greenwich, Chairman, Executive Committee, Police Foundation, Sir Kenneth Newman, Chairman, Trustees, Police Foundation, and Dr Barrie Irving, Director, Police Foundation. The lecture was given by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Home Office Award for Equal Opportunity in the Police Service, won by Inspector Christine Bainbridge, Essex Police.

Royal press office appointments

Mr Allan Percival, Head of Information in the Northern Ireland Office, London, to be Press Secretary to The Prince of Wales from September. Mr Sandy Henney, Head of Information at the Crown Prosecution Service, to be Assistant Press Secretary to The Prince of Wales from August. Miss Penny Russell-Smith, Press Officer in the News Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, responsible for European matters, to be Assistant Press Secretary to The Queen from September 6.

School news

The Margaret Allen Preparatory School for Girls. The end of term service will be held at St Nicholas Church, Hereford, at 11.00am on Friday, July 16. This will be the last official function for Mrs Joan Rees who is retiring at the end of term after 12 years as Headmistress. Lady Fiona Mynors has been appointed to succeed Mrs Rees and takes up the post on September 1.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

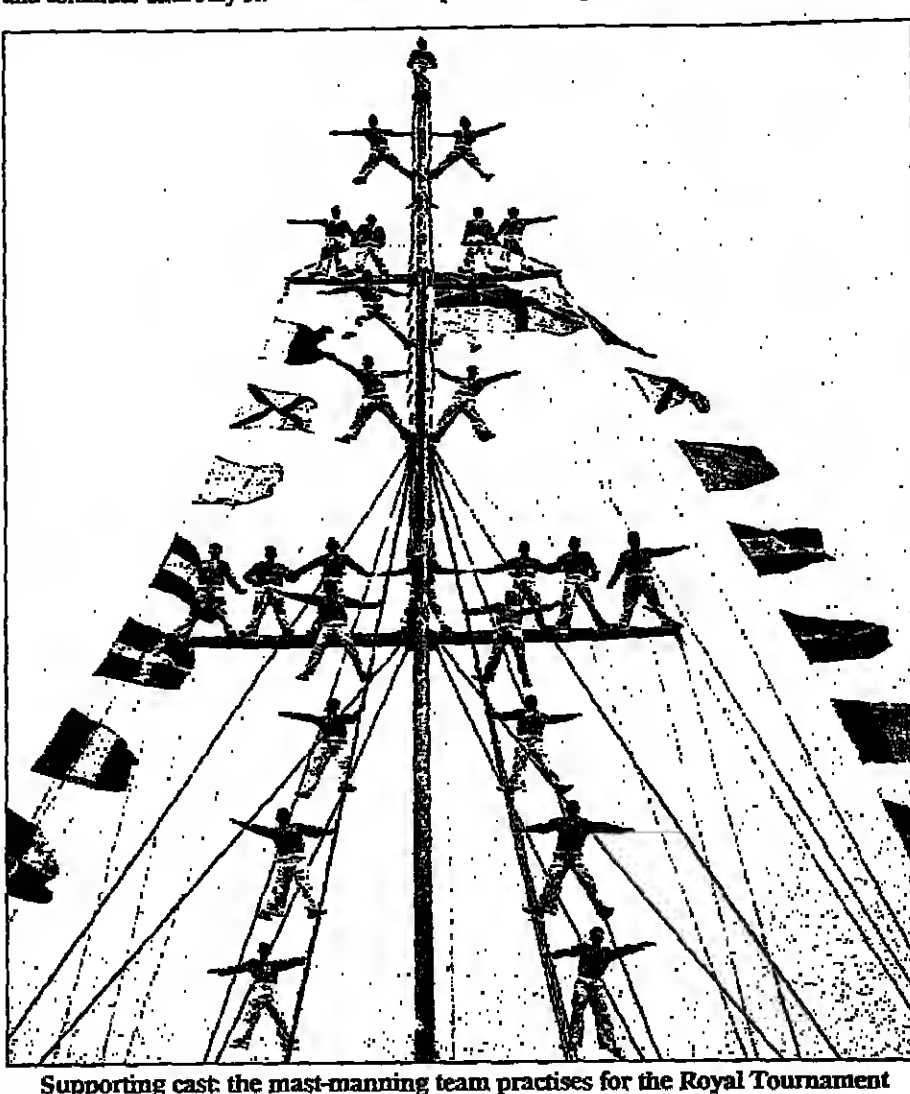
Sir Sigmund Sternberg has announced his resignation from the Labour Party after 40 years of active membership. He was a founder of the Labour Finance and Industry Group and its Deputy Chairman. He will continue to play a leading part in interfaith work.

Church news

Church in Wales
The Rev Christopher John Nickless, Vicar within the rectorial benefice of Ebbw Vale, to be Vicar of the benefice of St Teilo, Newport.

Wren flies to top billing at tournament

NICKY Howard, at 28, has already gone as high as she can in the Wrens. Twice a night she will be spending 20 minutes right at the top of a 97ft high mast during what the Royal Navy still calls a mast-manning display at this year's Royal Tournament. Yesterday she and the other members of the team were busy practising their display at HMS Daedalus, the Navy's land-based training establishment at Portsmouth. "Once you're up there you feel fantastic," she says. The tournament opens at Earl's Court, London, next Tuesday and continues until July 31.



Supporting cast: the mast-manning team practises for the Royal Tournament



Saluting post: Nicky Howard in position as Button Girl at the top of a 97ft high mast at HMS Daedalus

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.M. Davis and Miss M.A. Hutchinson. The engagement is announced between Gerald, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Davis, of Shirehampton, Bristol, and Melissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hutchinson, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr B.H. Fitzwilliams and Miss S.C. Allan. The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Fitzwilliams, of Warfield, Berkshire, and Stephanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Allan, of Woking, Surrey.

Major J.G. Lorimer and Miss P.A. Owens. The engagement is announced between Major John Gordon Lorimer, The Parachute Regiment, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Gordon Lorimer, of Farnham, Surrey, and Philippa, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs Graham Owens, of Hildesheim, Somerset.

Mr P.G. Mason and Mrs R.J. Le Ross. The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of the late Dr and Mrs G.A. Mason, of Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire, and Rosemary, eldest daughter of Sir Richard Goodenough, BT, of Midsomer, West Sussex.

Mr A.K. Wallis and Miss V.L. Barwick. The engagement is announced between Andrew, fourth son of Mr Francis Wallis and of Mrs A. Doreen Wallis, formerly of Manor Farm, Winterbourne, Monmouth, Wiltshire, and Victoria, youngest daughter of the late Sir Richard Barwick, BT, and the late Valerie Lady Barwick, formerly of Thimbleby Hall, Osmotherley, North Yorkshire.

Mr T.M. May and Mrs P.D. Mackinnon. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Colonel and Mrs R.K. May, of Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, and Philippa, only daughter of the late Mr D.A. Coaker and of Mrs Coaker.

Dr B.N. Panayiotou and Miss S.M. Bright. The engagement is announced between Barnabas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Nicos Panayiotou, of Nicosia, Cyprus, and Sandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Bright, of Bolton, Greater Manchester.

Mr W. Sowerby and Miss J.A. Morris. The engagement is announced between William, son of Mrs Jane Sowerby and the late Francis Sowerby, of Kirmington, South Humberside, and Julie Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Morris, of Wootton, South Humberside.

Marriage

Mr G. Reid and Miss G.M. Asprey. The marriage took place on Saturday, July 10, 1993, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr George Reid, son of the late Mr and Mrs Sandy Reid, to Miss Georgina Asprey, daughter of Mr John Asprey and Mrs Katrina Milnes Gaskell. The Rev Christopher Courtland officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs A. Charlotte Asprey and Edwina and Lucinda Stur. Mr James Munro was best man.

A reception was held at the Savoy and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

Acid rain is destroying ancient rock carvings

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ACID rain is destroying prehistoric rock carvings in Scandinavia, according to a recent report. Agriculture and tourism are also contributing to erosion of the carvings, which date to the Bronze Age, some 3,000 years ago.

"Carved rocks all over southern Scandinavia are now deteriorating at an alarming rate," Professor John Coles of Exeter University says in the Swedish journal *Tor end*.

The acid rain destroys the rock surface and the crisp outlines of the figures pecked into it, which include boats and sea creatures, as well as scenes of ploughing and ritual activities; the art often records aspects of ancient society for which there is no other surviving evidence.

Some of the erosion is caused by painting the engravings to make them stand out for visitors; when the paint flakes off, it takes part of the rock surface with it.

Professor Coles believes that a crash programme of recording engravings is needed, and that some should be buried to protect them.

The journal *Antiquity*, commenting on Professor Coles's warning that drastic intervention is needed, suggests that acidification of the soil in archaeological sites may also endanger ancient remains widely.

"Is there a moving frontier beyond whose front we can no longer expect metal or pottery to survive in the long or even short term? Are neutral sites, now turning distinctly and destructively acidic?" the journal asks, suggesting that it might be necessary to spread lime on threatened sites to counter the effects of environmental acids.

Source: *Tor 24/65-85; Antiquity 67: 191-3.*

University news

Manchester

Appointments to Chairs. David John Reid, Senior Lecturer in Education, to be Professor of Education, to start on August 1. John Meadburn, Reader in Radio Astronomy, to be Professor of Astronomy in the Department of Physics. Council has granted the title of Professor of Health Services Research to David Williams, Acting Director of the Centre for Primary Care Research from July 1, 1993.

Council has granted the title of Professor of Quantitative Social Research in the Departments of Economics and Social Statistics and of Sociology in Angela Dale, to start on September 1. Dr Dale is Deputy Director of the Social Statistics Research Unit and Reader in Social Statistics at City University, and is to be Director of the Census Microdata Unit, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester.

Christopher Stanislav Posen, Head of the Department of Epithelial Biology in the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, to be Professor of Hospital and Health Radiation Institute and Honorary Reader in Epithelial Biology, to start on August 1.

Senior Lectureships. Mr P.J. Devine, Economics, Dr K.F. Elliott, Biochemistry, in the Department of Biological Sciences; Dr C.R. French, French, in the Department of French; Dr T.C. Gibson, Law; Dr J.A. King-Hall, Mathematics; Dr R.F.T. McMahon, Pathology; Dr T.A. Myers, Materials Science; Dr C.B. Phillips, Economic History; Dr D.C. Taylor, Adult Education.

Reader in Nursing, Jacqueline A. McHale, Lecturer in Law, Jan McHale, M.N. Redmayne, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department, Peter King, Jan N. Simmonds.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and, with the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a dinner at the Royal Society Arts at 7.15 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Queen becoming Patron and the Duke becoming President of the society.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace at 4.00. Prince Edward, as trustee, will be present.

The Prince of Wales, as Chancellor of the University of Wales, will officiate at the degree ceremony at the University College of Wales at 10.20; will visit Conway at 12.40 and Llandudno at 1.05 to meet people affected by the recent flooding; and, as Patron of the Almshouse Association, will visit Hovey's Almshouses, Ludlow, Shropshire, at 4.35.

The Duke of Kent, as Colonel of the Scots Guards, will attend a dinner at Queen's Guard, St James's Palace, at 7.40.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Royal Naval School of Marine Engineering on HMS Sultan, Gosport, at 10.05 and, as patron, will attend the Yehudi Menuhin School's 30th anniversary concert at the Festival Hall at 7.35.

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will attend the annual day of the Royal School, Hampstead, at 2.30.

Reception

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals
Dr David Harrison, Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, Dr Kenneth Edwards, chairman-elect, and members of the committee, were the hosts at a reception held yesterday in the College Garden, Westminster Abbey. The guests included members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives of Government departments, industry, medicine, commerce and higher education. University chancellors and chairmen of university courts and councils were present.

Dinner

European-Atlantic Group
Mr Malcolm Riddick, QC, Secretary of State for Defence, was the guest of honour at a dinner at the European-Atlantic Group held last night at St Ermin's Hotel. Lord Chalfont was in the chair and the other speakers included Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald and the Earl of Bessborough. The Ambassadors of Egypt, Argentina, Romania, Bulgaria, Chile and Indonesia were among others present.

Appointment

Mr Frank Wheeler to be ambassador to Chile in succession to Mr A.R. Nelson.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TEL: 071 481 4000

FAX: 071 481 9313

Then the Lord came, and standing there called, "Stand up, Simon! Stand up, Simon! Stand up, Simon!"

1 Samuel 3: 10 (1923)

BIRTHS

REDFORD - On July 9th at Winchester, to Suzanne (née Redford) and John, a son, David Benedict James.

DONOVAN - On July 10th at Hove, to John and Mary, a son, Alexander John Donovan.

MAY - On Sunday July 11th, to Amanda (née Buchanan) and George, a daughter, Beatrice Katherine.

MENZIES-WILSON - To James and Verna (née Wilson), a daughter, Isabel Georgina on 8th July, a sister to Felix and Sam.

PELLING - On 12th July at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, to Charlotte (née Jones) and Mark, a son, Philip Henry.

ROBERTS - On July 8th at Southlands Hospital, a daughter, Annelise Jane, a sister for Lauren and Hannah.

RYAN - On July 11th at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, to Catherine (née Pelly) and Christopher, a daughter, Louise Elizabeth.

STREET - On July 7th at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, to Charlotte (née Jones) and Mark, a son, Philip Henry.

TOLLAN - On July 6th, to Denise (née Coggin) and Michael, a daughter, Alice Jane, a sister for Rebecca and Peter.

WARWICK-LASURRYA - On 12th July, to Caroline (née Lasurra) and Alexander, a son, Alexander Daniel.

RAPLEY-LEAVEY - On Saturday 10th July 1993, to Rapley and Alexandra, a daughter, Woolstone Church, Glos.

DEATHS

ALDRIDGE - Mrs Aldridge, County Durham, Ireland, on July 12th 1993, wedding at St. Joseph's Hospital, Bury, Lancashire. Deceased at 84.

MEZIERES-WILSON - To James and Verna (née Wilson), a daughter, Isabel Georgina on 8th July, a sister to Felix and Sam.

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RAPLEY-LEAVEY - On Saturday 10th July 1993, to Rapley and Alexandra, a daughter, Woolstone Church, Glos.

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How thriving is my valley

Tourism generates £1.3bn annually for the principality. In a special report, Iola Smith examines the success of a booming sector

In a land of exceptional scenery, with three national parks and five designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, it is not surprising that tourism is an important business. The Welsh tourist industry employs 95,000 people, 9 per cent of the workforce, and generates £1.3 billion for the principality's economy. This is almost 5 per cent of gross domestic product, a higher percentage than in either England or Scotland.

Last year, 8.3 million visitors came to Wales from other parts of Britain, and 620,000 from overseas. Paul Loveluck, chief executive of the Wales Tourist Board (WTB), says: "Increasing the overseas total is a priority, and we expect the numbers to grow significantly in future, as we now have the power to market Wales abroad for the first time."

One encouraging sign is the interest being displayed by foreign investors in tourism projects. The Sanyo Oil Company of Tokyo, for example, is building a hotel and a 36-hole golf course at Monmouth and promoting them as the Welsh Gleneagles. Campanile, the French hotel chain, has a hotel in Cardiff and another planned for Wrexham. A subsidiary of Aer Lingus, the Irish airline, has built the Copthorne Hotel near Cardiff.

These investments confirm the view of the WTB that Wales's culture, heritage and environment are among its strengths. Overseas visitors appreciate hearing the Welsh language, for instance, which makes Wales distinctive from the rest of the United Kingdom, and the board is helping to finance bilingual signs. It is also encouraging English-speaking hotel staff to learn some basic Welsh phrases.

Another attraction is

Wales's natural environment, though tourism developments have to be sensitive to its needs. "We would not sanction anything that would damage our environmentally sensitive areas," Mr Loveluck says. "Safeguarding such sites is essential, and if it became necessary in the interests of conservation to divert visitors away from a particular location, we would do so."

Snowdonia, which extends for 840 square miles, is the largest of Wales's three national parks. It is crowned by the 3,560-ft peak of Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales, which is a

'We would not sanction anything that would damage our environmentally sensitive areas'

Mecca for both hill-walkers and mountaineers, and is routinely used as a training area by climbers heading for the Himalayas.

Further south, the Pembrokeshire Coast national park stretches for 225 miles from Tenby to Cardigan. The only coastal national park in Britain, it has magnificent cliff views, it, too, appeals to walkers, and is also popular with ornithologists, who visit the offshore bird sanctuaries on the islands of Skokholm and Skomer.

Wales's third park is the Brecon Beacons, which cover 519 square miles of mountains

in mid-Wales. The park has on its fringes the Wye Valley, an area of outstanding natural beauty that possesses a wealth of history, from medieval Tintern Abbey to Monmouth Town, the birthplace of Henry V and Charles Rolls, of Rolls-Royce.

There are two other designated scenic areas in Gwynedd: Anglesey, which has a coastline of 125 miles, and the Llyn Peninsula to the south. Lloyd George's birthplace and site of Porthmeirion, Clough Williams Ellis's Italianate village, The Clwydian hills, in northeast Wales, are also designated, while nearby are the cathedral at St Asaph, Britain's smallest, and Bodelwyddan Castle, the National Portrait Gallery's offshoot.

But Welsh tourism is not limited to these well-known scenic areas. Wales has its castles, and seaside resorts such as Llandudno, Rhyl, Aberystwyth and Tenby. It has its industrial past, and this year has been designated Industrial Heritage Year in the expectation of attracting visitors. At the same time Cardiff and Swansea, the two biggest cities, have both spruced themselves up.

Many visitors first came to the Valleys for last year's Ebbw Vale garden festival, and they are being encouraged to return to the region. Susan Pownall, a spokeswoman at South Wales Tourism, says: "We were given a tremendous opportunity during the festival, when more than two million visitors came. Now we can build upon that impetus, creating an enormous boost for the future of the Valleys."

One of the WTB's objectives has been to create new jobs in the Valleys to compensate for those lost in heavy industry. It has taken similar steps in

Pembrokeshire, an area hard hit by cuts in the defence industry. Raising the profile of Cardiff and Swansea is a priority because they are gateways to Wales for overseas visitors. Cardiff is making the most of its castle, cathedral and turn-of-the-century civic centre, and is regenerating its southern waterfront.

Swansea's maritime quarter has been transformed, and the city can claim to be one of the few in Britain to have an area of outstanding natural beauty, the Gower Peninsula.

Both Cardiff and Swansea are also exploiting increased interest in the arts. Cardiff is already recognised as an important musical venue because of St David's Hall, and its image will be further enhanced by the Sydney-style opera house planned for the bay. The city is home to the National Museum of Wales.

The Folk Museum at St Fagans re-creates 400 years of Welsh rural history, featuring

farmhouses, a Victorian school and the latest attraction, Lord Owen's family shop. The museum attracted 350,000 visitors last year.

Swansea will be Britain's City of Literature in 1995. There are plans for holidays with literary themes, particularly linked with Dylan Thomas.

The WTB is aware that whatever the attractions, visitors need good accommodation and care. Since 1988, it has spent £18.7 million on improving Wales's tourism infrastructure. That has generated £143 million of investment by other bodies and the private sector, creating 3,000 jobs.

Tourism Quality Services, the privatised inspection unit, inspected and graded 4,800 hotels and guesthouses in Wales last year, says John Heron, its director. "We also work outside the principality. We undertake inspection work on the Isle of Man for the island's tourism department, and next year we will embark on our largest overseas project, grading hotels in Catalonia."

Festivals of the natural arts

Arts and the environment are the themes of the main events taking place in Wales this summer and autumn.

Tomorrow, the Welsh Promenade Concerts will begin at St David's Hall in Cardiff with a performance by the London Philharmonic Orchestra of works by Tchaikovsky. The concert marks the centenary of the Russian composer's death.

During the season, the renamed BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will also take the stage. On the last night, July 24, the Halle Orchestra, conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes, will perform Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No 1 and works by Berlioz, Poulenc, Ravel and Walton.

On Friday, the Wales Actors Company begins touring its summer production of *Macbeth* to 14 of Wales's historic castles.

Bryn Terfel, one of Wales's best known baritones, will be singing at the National Eisteddfod, the principal annual event for the Welsh language, which will be held from July 31 to August 7 at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground in Builth Wells. One highlight will be a production of Verdi's *Nabucco* in Welsh.

As it is being staged for the first time in anglicised Radnorshire, the eisteddfod has received financial support from the European Community for free Welsh lessons for local people. A simultaneous translation service will help English-speakers.

Before that, from July 19 to 22, the showground will be the setting for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, the most important event on the Welsh agricultural calendar. The organisers expect 200,000 visitors and 6,600 animals to be present.

The show is also the centrepiece of the Festival of

the Countryside, a seven-month celebration of the countryside that began in mid-Wales in June and will continue until December. The festival was established in 1985 as the region's contribution to world conservation. David Bellamy, its adviser, describes it as "the role model for sustainable tourism". The festival features guided walks and pony treks, badger-watching and bat-detecting, and visits to working farms.

Brecon, a town in mid-Wales, becomes a focal point for jazz enthusiasts every August when Brecon Jazz is held there. This year, 80 concerts will be held during one weekend, August 13 to 15.

In contrast, the Cardiff Festival (September 17 to October 9) and the Swansea Music Festival (September 27 to November 6) focus on classical music. Attractions at both will be the Welsh National Opera and the Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra from Moscow.

Welsh Tourism. 95,000 jobs and climbing

Tourism is responsible - directly and indirectly - for about 9% of all jobs in Wales and brings more than £1.25 billion each year to the Welsh economy.

It is one of Wales's top three industries and, according to the Wales Tourist Board's recently published draft strategy, Tourism 2000, still offers good prospects for growth.

The Board forecasts an average annual growth rate of 1.5% in trips and 5% in spending by UK visitors at current prices. For overseas visitors the Board envisages an average annual growth of 7% in trips and 14% in spending at current prices. The number of staying visitors to Wales, the Board estimates, would increase from 9.3 million to 11.1 million. Earnings, including expenditure by day visitors would also reach the £2.2 billion mark at current prices, by the end of the decade. In terms of jobs potential the Board believes that the industry can sustain at least a further 10,000 jobs by the year 2000.

The Wales Tourist Board's vision for the year 2000 is of an industry that is competitive in terms of the quality of facilities and its customer care and also in the diversity of the holiday experience.

The Wales Tourist Board sees

• A country that is of appeal to the overseas visitor by



virtue of its outstanding natural environment, its distinctive culture and history.

• A tourism industry which continues to appeal to its traditional family holiday market, while at the same time attracting more high spending visitors through short breaks and business tourism.

• A country distinguished above all by the friendliness and helpfulness of its people.

• An industry whose operators are prepared to work in partnership with others.

• An industry which is concerned to meet the needs of its customers and is better

able to take responsibility for its own future.

• And an industry which offers good working conditions to those employed in it.

Tourism 2000 is intended to guide the way in which this important industry is developed and marketed. To achieve its objectives the Board recognises that it will require the effort of many public sector organisations as well as the private sector.

The Wales Tourist Board's previous strategy was regarded as a success because it introduced the concept of an integrated development programme. Since 1988 the Board has

provided £18.7m in financial assistance to a total of 1256 tourism development projects. This has stimulated an overall investment of £143m and created or secured over 3,000 direct full-time jobs.

The objective of the Board's Local Enterprise and Development Initiative was to provide a catalyst for the public and private sectors to plan and implement co-ordinated development programmes. A budget of £8.7m allocated to the LEAD initiative stimulated capital spending of £37 million.

This same co-ordinated

approach will be the linchpin of the new Tourism 2000 strategy.

Major programmes are proposed to provide for coastal resort regeneration, historic towns marketing, country holidays, urban tourism, targeting Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham. It is also planned to boost day visitors, customer care, management and training.

The strategic challenge facing the tourism industry in Wales may be summarised as follows:

Tourism can play an even greater role in the economy of Wales.

Tourism must respect the environment, in all its facets and must proceed with the support of the community.

And to flourish in the future, tourism needs to offer quality and value for money.

There is no doubt that tourism world wide will become increasingly competitive, and there are very challenging years ahead.

But the Wales Tourist

Board is confident that the industry in Wales offers many new opportunities for investment and development.

A summary of Tourism 2000 and "A Record of Achievement 1988-1993" are available free of charge from:

The Wales Tourist Board, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff, CF2 1UY, Tel. 0222 499909



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WALES TOURIST BOARD**

سكزا من لإمبل

King coal is dead but his works shine on



Steam and coal: the twin energy sources that powered the Industrial Revolution live on in the coalmining museums and restored steam train railway lines of the principality

10,000 more jobs by 2000

Planners want to double the income from tourism to more than £2 billion

With the publication of a blueprint called Tourism 2000, the Wales Tourist Board (WTB) has set out its long-term strategy for meeting the needs of the 21st century. Paul Loveluck, the chief executive, says: "Our intention is to double the income generated by tourism from the current £1.3 billion to £2.2 billion by the year 2000. And we also want to create 10,000 new jobs."

Llandrindod Wells. These appeal to all types of visitors, and the WTB has already taken steps to develop town trails and improve their infrastructure.

Tourism in large urban areas is another priority. Cardiff and Swansea are the two biggest, but the WTB has also earmarked Newport, which is due to benefit from environmental improvements, and Wrexham, because of its industrial heritage, for promotional efforts.

Finally, the blueprint seeks to improve training for those active in tourism and customer care. The WTB's first step in this direction was to bring the Welcome Host initiative to Wales. It was launched 18 months ago, and since then almost 10,000 people have been trained to communicate better with visitors, and to help resolve problems.

"Welcome Host began in 1986 in British Columbia,

Canada, as a means of involving the whole community in welcoming visitors," explains Norman Poole, its Welsh organiser.

"We recognised its potential, and bought the European franchise so that Wales's training and

enterprise councils could offer the training programme to

hotellers, retailers and the general public.

"The intention is to reinforce Wales's reputation for hospitality, and already organisations such as Marks & Spencer, Safeway, the Midland Bank, local authorities and the National Trust have put their staff through the programme."

Mr Poole is presently introducing the scheme as part of the curriculum for 16 to 19-year-olds in schools and colleges, and expects that 25,000 people will have been trained by the end of next year.

The aim of Welcome Host is to give visitors a good impression, so that they stay longer and spend more, as well as tending to return for a second visit. Its potential has been recognised by New Zealand, which has also adopted it, as have some Australian states. There is also interest in Finland, The Netherlands and Scotland.

The WTB's first sale, however, has been to England. The English Tourist Board has bought the training scheme, after seeing the benefits it is already bringing to Wales.

"We see an industry which is sustainable in the longer term. The targets are realistic"

Action programmes have been set out for six areas: regeneration of traditional coastal resorts; sprucing-up historic towns; country holidays; urban tourism; day visitors; and better care for visitors.

Wales's traditional coastal resorts should be able to offer more cost-effective holidays. The number of children under 14 in the United Kingdom population is expected to increase by 10 per cent over the next few years, and to meet the demand, the resorts are preparing new attractions. In Rhyl, for instance, there will be a children's theme park.

There will also be an increase in visitors of the 45-plus age group. Llandudno plans to open a new 1,500-seat opera house. This will provide a place in North Wales in which the Welsh National Opera can stage its large-scale productions.

Day visitors already account for a fifth of the tourists who come to Wales. Many choose the traditional coastal towns. Tourism 2000 identifies two areas, better car-parking and restaurant facilities, in which improvements are required if these visitors' needs are to be fully met.

Then there are Wales's historic towns, such as Conway, Caernarvon, Llangollen and

cities. Gwynfryn Farm, for instance, near Pwllheli, in Gwynedd, allows visiting children to help around the farm. "They can feed the calves, bed the cows and collect the eggs," says Jane Ellis, the farmer.

As well as being popular with children, farm holidays are attractive for special interest groups, such as hikers and ornithologists. Some overseas visitors enjoy the slower pace of life on a farm, and Mrs Ellis has been welcoming Dutch families every summer for nine years.

Lochmeyer Farm, near Solva in Dyfed, is one of many farms which offer visitors a taste of Welsh cuisine. They can sample traditional soups, Welsh lamb and locally produced cheeses and vegetables. Morfydd Jones, the farmer, has always combined farming with accommodating tourists, and is convinced that there is a bright future for farm tourism, particularly in areas of outstanding natural beauty such as Dyfed.

Some entire villages have taken up the challenge and, together with the WTB, offer "country village breaks". Six villages are taking part in this year's programme: Llanboidy and Robeston Wathen in Dyfed, Pentrefael in Cwyd, and Berriew, Llyswen and Llanwrtyd Wells in Powys, the last Britain's smallest village, with a population of 600.

Each village has developed a programme of activities. Berriew offers an introduction to jewellery-making, and Pentrefael an archaeological trail around Lake Brenig. For £12 per person for the weekend, it is an interesting introduction to rural Wales.

successful at Llangollen, where plans have been unveiled to extend the track westwards to the town of Corwen. Supported by the WTB and the Welsh Development Agency as the key to tourism development and economic revival in the area, the line has recently launched a £500,000 share issue to finance the extension.

The only narrow-gauge railway in South Wales is the Brecon line, which ferries passengers to the Brecon Beacons national park. This railway has introduced historic locomotives from Africa and continental Europe on to its line: its passengers can take a ride behind venerable engines from South Africa and eastern Germany.

Farming communities are also getting much-needed additional income from tourism. According to the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW), tourism accounts for a third of farmers' income in some parts of Wales, bridging the difference between success and failure.

Some 6,000 Welsh farms provide some form of accommodation for visitors, and in a bid to help them diversify, the WTB has provided £630,000 worth of grant assistance. That has stimulated the farmers themselves to invest a total of £2.3 million on improving facilities for tourists.

Farm holidays are increasingly popular with young families living in

holidays, the Welsh Tourist Board (WTB) and the Sports Council for Wales are determined that they should enjoy these activities safely. "We have established a voluntary inspection scheme," says Chris Coleman, who is in charge of activity holidays for the WTB. "We are the only British tourist board to inspect activity centres."

Visitors should have guarantees, the WTB believes, about the quality of provision available at all climbing, canoeing or abseiling centres. The English Tourist Board agrees, and is considering adopting the "Welsh method."

Not every specialist holidaymaker wants to keep fit, however. For the less energetic, a leisurely ride through spectacular scenery is more appealing, and Wales's "great little trains", the narrow-gauge steam railways, are the answer. Five of these pass through the Snowdonia national park, often running on tracks used 100 years ago to transport slate from Gwynedd's quarries to the ports along the North Wales coast.

They include the Bala and Llanberis lines, that run around Bala and Padarn lakes respectively, and the Ffestiniog, Welsh Highland and Talyllyn railways. Talyllyn, which was opened in 1865, was saved from closure in the 1950s by enthusiasts, who have developed the line to carry 65,000 passengers a year.

Steam buffs have been equally

Visitors can go down a mine, up a mountain and around a farm enjoying the industrial, environmental and agricultural heritage

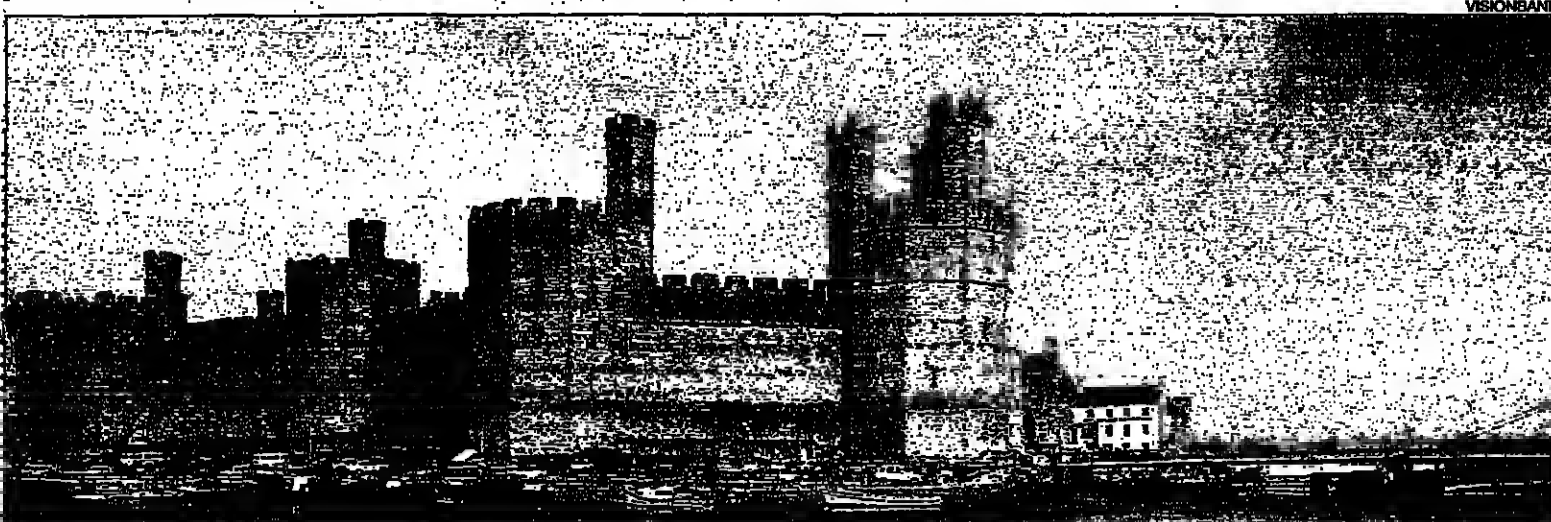
Mineral smelting was a major industry in West Glamorgan, and its story is told at Swansea's Industrial and Maritime Museum. South Wales's industrial heritage is also on display at the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum in Cardiff, and the Valley Inheritance Museum in Pontypool. At Newport, the French-designed transporter bridge, one of the most visual testaments of the region's heavy industrial past, is being restored.

At Wrexham, the eight-mile long Clywedog valley trail takes tourists to a series of industrial archaeological remains. En route, they pass the Bersham Heritage Centre, established at the former home of the 18th-century Wilkinson iron works.

Further west in Gwynedd, slate quarrying was the dominant industry. Its history can be seen at the Llechwedd slate caverns, near Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Eighteen per cent of visitors to Wales, about 1.2 million people, come to the principality for some form of activity holiday. Climbers and hikers often choose the challenge of the Snowdonia national park, while water-sports enthusiasts can canoe at Bala Lake, in North Wales, or sail sea-going yachts from marinas at Swansea, Penarth or Pwllheli.

While encouraging those who come for these more adventurous



King of the castles: Caernarvon Castle, used for the investiture of the Prince of Wales, is the most popular tourist attraction in Wales

Fortress towns invite invaders

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Castles built to control the Welsh are big attractions

The Romans came to Wales in AD75, setting up residence along the banks of the Usk at Caerleon. The remains of their 50-acre military complex, complete with barracks, bath-house and amphitheatre, can still be seen. Roman artifacts unearthed at the site are displayed at the nearby Legionary Museum, which offers a computer-created view of the bath-house's design.

The Romans marched west from the Usk, using Gwent as a base, through Cardiff and Carmarthen to Dolau Cothi, where they mined Welsh gold. They built a fort at Caernarvon, in North Wales.

It was not until after the Norman Conquest, however, that Wales's best-known ancient monuments, the medi-

eval concentric castles, came into existence. Edward I conquered the Welsh in 1282, and proceeded to build an iron ring of castles around the stronghold of Snowdonia.

The most popular with visitors today is Caernarvon Castle, begun in 1283. Its walls were modelled on those of Constantinople, and it is the site of the investitures of the Princes of Wales. The tradition began when Edward I presented his son as a prince for the Welsh, and it was renewed 24 years ago when Prince Charles was invested.

An exhibition tracing the history of investitures can be seen at the castle, which is also home to the museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

The second favourite is Con-

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NEWS

Economy boost gives Major hope

John Major hailed fresh evidence of an economic recovery as the biggest surge in factory output for four years boosted the pound and gave him much-needed respite.

Monthly manufacturing production jumped by 1.8 per cent in May to its highest level since September 1990, raising hopes that the economy is growing more robustly than the government had forecast and that tax increases may not be necessary in the November Budget. Pages 1, 2, 21

Birt will answer Tully onslaught

John Birt, the BBC director-general, will this morning defend his reforms after a savage attack on his management of the corporation by one of his journalists. Mark Tully, the India correspondent, said that Mr Birt was destroying the skill base which has made the BBC famous. Page 1

Lloyd's suicide

A solicitor facing heavy losses at Lloyd's hanged himself after learning that he might be forced into bankruptcy, an inquest was told. Harold Weston, 51, was a member of a loss-making Gooda Walker syndicate. Page 1

Sunday support

John Major declared himself behind plans to scrap restrictions on Sunday shopping as the government disclosed proposals to reform trading laws. Page 1

Iraq threat

As the chief United Nations weapons inspector prepared to fly to Baghdad today, diplomats warned that if his mission failed it could trigger a new Western attack on Iraq. Page 1

Quake disaster

The Japanese government declared parts of Hokkaido a disaster zone as the earthquake toll reached 70. At least 170 people are still missing. Pages 1, 11

Water costs

Brussels must be challenged over the scale and pace of its European water quality improvements to avoid bills in Britain rocketing the water industry regulator urged. Page 2

Teachers stress

Classroom stress and a continuing squeeze on budgets are the prime causes of a sharp rise in early retirements since the start of the 1990s, a head teachers' association reports. Page 5

'Sunset' set for a shining future

Benedict Nightingale on *Sunset Boulevard*: "It is not charabanc chic, like *Starlight Express* or the revival of *Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The obvious comparison is with *Phantom of the Opera*, more serious, more imposing and in every sense, more haunting... there are more attractive melodies than in any other of Webber's musicals." Page 3

Jockey sues

A former leading jockey told the High Court that his career ended when his horse fell as it took the lead in a race at Doncaster's St Leger meeting in 1989. He is suing Doncaster Council, alleging that the ground had been disturbed. Page 6

Whitelaw's warning

Viscount Whitelaw is to warn Baroness Thatcher and her fellow rebels tonight that they will provoke a "nasty" clash between the Lords and Commons if they push through a Maastricht referendum amendment. Page 8

Siege desperation

After sixteen months of siege, Sarajevo is desperate, in disarray and divided. There is no electricity, running water, gas or telephones. The capital feels betrayed by the world. Page 9

Republican attack

Leading Republicans pummelled President Clinton as a tax-happy liberal, a fan of big government and an advocate of dangerously deep defence cuts at their summer strategy session in Chicago. They also gave thanks to Mr Clinton for helping to unify their party. Page 10

Flood toll

The rain-swollen Mississippi and its tributaries continued to swallow up land. Residents and National Guardsmen battled to save homes and businesses as the flooding was linked to at least 19 deaths, 13 in Missouri. Page 10



Missiles in the park: a Kurdish man is arrested in St James's Park during a protest against the visit of Erdal Inonu, the Turkish deputy prime minister, to the Foreign Office. The demonstrators threw eggs and stones at Mr Inonu's car. Page 2

Water slide: Shares in the privatized water companies rose sharply and then fell back on estimates by the regulator, Ofwat, that water bills must rise to meet environmental obligations. Page 21

Peace move: Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, handed another olive branch to Virgin Atlantic in a fresh attempt to defuse their dispute. Page 21

Markets: Encouraging economic statistics underpinned sterling, which gained against the dollar and the German mark, rising 1.60 cents to \$1.4915 and 1.30 pence to DM2.5661. The FT-SE 100 share index closed 6.2 higher at 2,837.1. Page 24

Football: Chelsea must pay Swindon Town a maximum of £175,000 for the services of Glenn Hoddle, a Premier League transfer tribunal ruled. Swindon had been seeking £1 million compensation for their former player-manager. Page 38

Athletics: Peter Gordon, the second-ranked British discus thrower, has been suspended by the British Athletic Federation pending an investigation into a drugs test infringement. Page 40

Golf: Ian Woosnam, David Feherty and John Daly have been drawn to play together in the first round of the Open Championship which is starting at Sandwich tomorrow. Pages 38, 40

Heathrow bestsellers: A long journey is an opportunity to be adventurous: not just abroad, but in the imagination too. Daniel Johnson on holiday books. Page 12

Leading role: Elgar wrote one. Churchill used to paint in one. The panama hat has always had a special place in the Englishman's wardrobe. George Treigarn on his return. Page 13

Encouraging news: "It is good to learn that a big international deal has been based on a handshake." Roger Graef on the agreement between the BBC and ABC to share news gathering. Page 28

Troubled bridges: Britain is topping the league for building ugly bridges, says the Royal Fine Art Commission. The M25 Thames bridge at Dartford is singled out for special abuse. Page 29

Maritime munificence: The National Maritime Museum has been given a £750,000 bequest to build an educational centre. Greenwich become a world centre for maritime heritage? Page 31

Grease without Travolta: Back in the West End, *Grease* will be newly with songs from the John Travolta film. But why has this largely plotless, superficial skim through the youth culture of the late 1950s proved so enduring? Page 30

On the eve of the Open, the start of a six-part series on the history of the game: *Golf and All Its Glory* (BBC2, 7.40 pm). Page 39

Uncharted territory

The UN needs to be more forceful in Somalia, not less. The taming of General Aidiid is indispensable, but only as part of a broader strategy of striking hard against all the warring factions without discrimination. Page 15

This side of the water

A better financial structure could do much to resolve the tension between the public's desire for better water and its resistance to ever-higher bills. But that has nothing to do with Brussels. Page 15

A span too far

The architects and aesthetes of the Royal Fine Art Commission are right to insist on the beauty of bridges. But the Department of Transport has a duty too. Page 15

SIMON JENKINS

Leaderologists gathered from around the world at an undisclosed venue to discuss the calibre of those at the G7 summit. Their conclusions were not flattering. Pygmies, anti-heroes, men of no vision were among some of the kindest epithets heard. Page 14

IAN MCINTYRE

Mr Tully's view of the BBC through the prism of Indian politics is certainly idiosyncratic, but he has redirected attention to a number of important issues. It is increasingly difficult to avoid concluding that the biggest issue of the director-general is the personality and style of the director-general. Page 14

With the Lords due to vote tonight on whether or not the nation should have a referendum on Maastricht, readers give their views on Europe and Parliament's role. Page 15

The UN cannot leave Iraq under doubt that, if it is prevented from guaranteeing the region's safety through peaceful arms inspections, it will necessarily have to resort to force. — Washington Post

The people of Somalia deserve better than what ambitious warlords and their gangs of armed thugs have brought them. — Los Angeles Times

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Cold comfort on the M-way

Driving through France, hot and bothered? Try a walk-through fountain, one of the new autoroute facilities laid on this year by the thoughtful French.

Instant view from Waco

A crop of "instant" books has sprung from the ashes of Waco. Ben Macintyre on the expected mixture of sensational, superficial and serious journalism.

Dino-day arrives

After the hype, *Jurassic Park* opens. "I have yet to recover from seeing six Dickie Attenboroughs on screen at once," writes Geoff Brown.



Dorte Christensen, the Danish cricketer, who will be taking part in the women's World Cup, culminating in a final at Lord's on August 1. Page 40

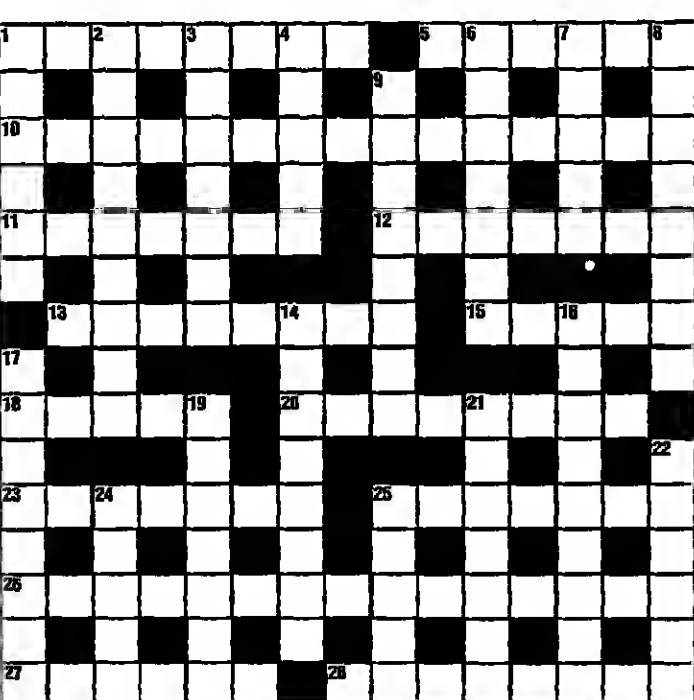


Caroline Worsfold, who hopes to be ordained in the Church of England even though her husband, a priest, will join the Catholics. Page 6



The Princess Royal's car convoy was shot at in Moscow last weekend. But the assailant was probably shooting at the police. Page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,282



- ACROSS**
- Report — gun requires this to produce one (8)
 - Sack for Cockney and foreign bird (6)
 - Actor portraying merriment during dance (7,8)
 - Non-professional race held — Englishman's first in the grid (7)
 - ...raced through the majority on the way back, crossing bar (7)
 - Propeller beginning to spin — plane's personnel go round it (8)
 - Old letter representing North (5)
 - The P.M.'s about to nap (5)
 - From disc-jockeys to newsmen, all depends on this (8)
 - Car dosed with vitamin is thickening (7)
 - Graphically describe harbour-light (7)
 - Bare earth, letting hoe get to work (2,3,10)
- DOWN**
- Power for a session of Ireland (6)
 - Antipodean egg-producer provides supply at random (8)
 - Money the French make fast (6)
 - Most ignorant in America, however (9)
 - Re-designed a slicer for cakes (7)
 - Children in one's charge (5)
 - State handout for a tramp (7)
 - Starts to correspond; in the end, serves summons (5)
 - Building a belief about people (8)
 - Rejected players before a match (6)
 - Holding family tree up to light again (8)
 - Title: "No whisper must get out" (9)
 - David is briefly taken in by a fortune-teller (8)
 - Pink needs new back door (7)
 - Folk in the wrong worry excessively (7)
 - Confuser spoken of in island (6)
 - Player-manager has no following (5)
 - Search for victims for each heartless bird of prey (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,281

KINGPOST SCRAWL
I U R I H N A
SEAGUING MARION
M P G A I S D
EMCEE LOGARITHM
T E L E R A A
PLUMBERIOUS
S A F E I C N M S
M I S P R O N O U N C E
A B O R T I V E U
STATEMENT IMPER
H Y M N D I S O
M A I R D B R A C H E S
I N E A B O E
T A G E N D O U S E A S T E R

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 51 per cent of the competitors at the 1993 Leeds regional final of The Times Knockout Crossword Championship.

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East of England	702
South East	703
West of England	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire & Lancashire	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
London & Home Counties	712
Yorkshire & Lancashire	713
West Midlands	714
East Midlands	715
Central Midlands	716
North East	717
North West	718
Yorkshire & Lancashire	719
West Midlands	720
East Midlands	721
Central Midlands	722
London & Home Counties	723
Yorkshire & Lancashire	724
West Midlands	725
East Midlands	726
Central Midlands	727
North East	728
North West	729
Yorkshire & Lancashire	730
West Midlands	731
East Midlands	732
Central Midlands	733
London & Home Counties	734
Yorkshire & Lancashire	735
West Midlands	736
East Midlands	737
Central Midlands	738
North East	739
North West	740
Yorkshire & Lancashire	741
West Midlands	742
East Midlands	743
Central Midlands	744
London & Home Counties	745
Yorkshire & Lancashire	746
West Midlands	747
East Midlands	748
Central Midlands	749
North East	750
North West	751
Yorkshire & Lancashire	752
West Midlands	753
East Midlands	754
Central Midlands	755
London & Home Counties	756
Yorkshire & Lancashire	757
West Midlands	758
East Midlands	759
Central Midlands	760
North East	761
North West	762
Yorkshire & Lancashire	763
West Midlands	764
East Midlands	765
Central Midlands	766
London & Home Counties	767
Yorkshire & Lancashire	768
West Midlands	769
East Midlands	770
Central Midlands	771
North East	772
North West	773
Yorkshire & Lancashire	774
West Midlands	775
East Midlands	776
Central Midlands	777
London & Home Counties	778
Yorkshire & Lancashire	779
West Midlands	780
East Midlands	781
Central Midlands	782
North East	783
North West	784
Yorkshire & Lancashire	785
West Midlands	786
East Midlands	787
Central Midlands	788
London & Home Counties	789
Yorkshire & Lancashire	790
West Midlands	791
East Midlands	792
Central Midlands	793
North East	794
North West	795
Yorkshire & Lancashire	796
West Midlands	797
East Midlands	798
Central Midlands	799
London & Home Counties	800

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road conditions information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-4025	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746
AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 46p per minute at all other times.	

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	2.29	2.09
Austria Sch	19.10	17.89
Belgium Fr	58.00	51.80
Canada \$	2.05	1.86
Denmark Kr	16.58	15.78
Finland Mk	9.22	8.42
France Fr	6.55	6.05
Germany Dr	2.75	2.55
Greece Dr	355.50	340.00
Poland Pl	12.20	11.20
Spain Ptas	166.00	150.00
Switzerland Sfr	1.11	1.00
Italy Lit	2445.00	2200.00
Japan Yen	179.30	160.00
Netherlands Gld	1.25	1.15
Norway Kr	11.49	10.89
Portugal Esc	200.00	180.00
South Africa Rd	257.00	230.00
Spain Ptas	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	12.34	11.54
Switzerland Sfr	1.11	1.00
Turkey Lira	17100.0	16100.0
USA \$	1.58	1.45

Northeast Scotland will have a dry day with some bright or sunny intervals. The rest of Britain will start cloudy or dull, with light rain or drizzle along the east coast. It will brighten up in the afternoon with some sunny intervals developing inland, helping it to feel warmer. Cloud, with some outbreaks of rain spreading into southwest England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the evening. Outlook: changeable.

MIDWINTER: 1=thunder, 2=drops, 3=snow, 4=sun, 5=cloud, 6=rain, 7=light, 8=dark, 9=heavy, 10=very heavy

Area	Sun	Rain	Cloud	Temp
Aberdeen	6.5	0.04	18	61 sunny
Anglophilly	13.3	0.02	17	63 sunny
Belfast	5.9	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Birmingham	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Bristol	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Cardiff	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Edinburgh	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Exeter	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Gloucester	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Leeds	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
London	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Manchester	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Newcastle	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Nottingham	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Sheffield	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Southampton	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Stirling	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Swansea	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Torquay	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Wolverhampton	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy
Wrexham	13.3	0.01	17	63 cloudy

These are Monday's figures

London 9.43 pm to 4.30 am

Belfast 9.52 pm to 4.40 am

Edinburgh 10.30 pm to 4.16 am

Manchester 10.01 pm to 4.28 am

Partnership 9.57 pm to 4.38 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Yesterday: Temp: max 8pm to 6pm, 17C (63F), min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5 hr.

Yesterday: Temp: max 8pm to 6pm, 19C (66F), min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 10 hr.

Forecast for tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.

Forecast for the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after the day after tomorrow: c, cloud; f, far; m, m; s, sun.



HOMES 35

Saved, with police assistance, from eviction



ARTS 29-31

Craig McLachlan: a John Travolta de nos jours?



SPORT 36-40

Top British swimmer falls victim to fatigue

REDISCOVERY
OF THE
TEMP ARMY
Page 33

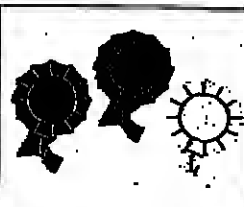
THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY JULY 14 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

JOB VOTE



Unemployment has become a key issue in the crucial by-election in Christchurch, says Philip Bassett
Page 25

PAY POLL

One in six top executives took a pay cut last year, but most boardrooms fared better
Page 23

CANDIDATES



Another Frenchman has been added to the list of candidates to replace Jacques Attali at the EBRD
Page 22

THE POUND

US \$ 1.4915 (+0.0160)
German mark 2.5681 (+0.0130)
Exchange Index 81.2 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2837.1 (+8.2)
Dow Jones 3516.00 (+3.39)
Nikkei Avg 20180.42 (+300.42)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6.5%
US Federal Funds 2.75%
3-month Treas Bills 3.04-3.05%
Long Bond 6.83%

CURRENCIES

New York: London £1.4915
\$DM 1.7207 \$DM 1.7208
\$SWF 1.5200 \$SWF 1.5202
\$Fr 5.8745 \$Fr 5.8780
\$Yen 108.30 \$Yen 108.20
\$SDR 1.0721 \$ECU 1.3142
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (6)
AM 380.40 PM 382.45
Close 383.80-384.20
New York
Comex 383.75-384.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.1 May (1.3%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Floor show: Lord King, the former chairman of British Airways, makes a point from his unaccustomed seat in the audience yesterday

BA extends the hand of friendship to Virgin

By JON ASHWORTH

THE great British Airways jamboree opened to rapturous applause at the Barbican Centre, London, yesterday, and passed in a swirl of spotlights, uniforms, inflatable jumbo jets... and a few frosty comments about that airline.

Sir Colin Marshall, taking the stand for the first time as chairman, used the occasion of the annual meeting to hand yet another olive branch to Virgin Atlantic in a fresh attempt to defuse their long-running dispute.

Allegations of a "dirty tricks" campaign by BA against Virgin came to a head in January, when Richard Branson's airline won £610,000 in libel damages, and an "unreserved" apology from BA. Since then, the sides have become embroiled again, and Sir Colin was keen to bring the 1.117 shareholders present up to date.

Talk of a wide-ranging, centrally orchestrated campaign by BA was wide of the mark, he said. However, "a few unconnected incidents of conduct by a few British Airways employees" had come to light, resulting in January's libel judgment. These actions, Sir Colin said, were not authorised by any director. "I repeat the assurance to you here today and state further, without qualification, that I did not direct, authorise or implement any improper activities or conduct against Virgin or its chairman," he said. "I did not know about them at the time they occurred. I did not — and do not — condone any such activities."

Sir Colin's remarks may well have been directed at Brian Basham, BA's former external public relations adviser, who earlier swept into the Barbican muttering about

flawed judgment and questionable integrity. Mr Basham, sacked by BA earlier this year, has called for an independent enquiry into the Virgin affair.

Sir Colin invited Virgin to submit to arbitration in a fresh attempt to end legal wrangling. A previous attempt led by the Civil Aviation Authority was abandoned last month. In May, Virgin issued a writ against BA in the High Court alleging breach of copyright, breach of confidence and misuse of confidential information. The battle was taken further on Monday, when Virgin filed a complaint with the European Commission, accusing BA of giving incentives to big companies and travel agents.

Despite the shadow cast by the affair, the past year had not been lacking in success. BA had established itself in continental Europe, and had taken stakes in USAir and Qantas.

Most of the shareholders present seemed more concerned about travel discounts and noise pollution. One gentleman demanded to know why a ticket to Malaga cost £32 more on BA.

Earlier, Sir Colin paid homage to his mentor, Lord King, who took a front-row seat for the event. Lord King stepped down early as chairman in February, taking the honorary title of president.

The meeting ended with a spectacular preview of the new BA uniforms, which will be phased in from early next year. Shareholders filed out past a counter selling BA mugs, USAir T-shirts and plastic jumbo jets. Refreshments were not served.

Regulator puts water shares in a spin

By CARL MORTIMER

WATER company shareholders had a roller-coaster ride yesterday as Ian Byatt, director-general of Ofwat, published the regulator's costing of new environmental obligations on the water industry.

The announcement that Ofwat estimates bills will need to rise by 5 per cent a year in real terms from 1995-2000 caused the sector to gain between 1 and 2 per cent in value on hopes that rises in income would be reflected in real growth in dividends. But the gains were lost when the market realised the companies' profits could still be hit by next July's decision on price limits.

Industry analysts believe that Ofwat is playing a sophisticated game in warning the government of the political risk of high water charges in order to secure a less stringent water quality regime in the coming battle over water bills.

The report, *Paying for Quality: the Political Perspective*, said existing quality obligations would cost the industry £5 billion a year in capital expenditure and £3 billion annually in operating costs between 1995 and the end of the century.

If potential EC directives on water quality were included, the totals would be higher.

Challenge urged, page 2
Leading article, page 15
Tempos, page 25

Pound soars after boost in output

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

STERLING jumped yesterday as doubts about the strength of the recovery were dispelled by figures showing another good performance by British manufacturers.

The pound piled on more than a cent and a half against the dollar and more than a penny against the mark. Its trade weighted index closed at 81.2 against 80.8 on Monday.

The reaction of financial markets to more evidence of a broadly based recovery, and one healthily tilted towards manufacturing, exports and investment rather than to the consumer sector, is ambiguous.

One camp argues that the pound's continued strength threatens to undermine the competitive edge from devaluation that is the cornerstone of manufacturers' current performance and that, if sterling appreciates much further, interest rates should be cut. The other camp says the recovery has considerable momentum and that further rate cuts are not needed. This view seems to have most credence in the foreign exchange and gilt markets.

The focus for the foreign exchange markets yesterday remained the franc, which

Strong production figures by British manufacturers added to hopes of a more broadly based recovery, boosting sterling against both the dollar and the mark

stabilised but showed no signs of recovering after its drop on Monday. At the European close, the franc was trading at around 3.450 against the mark, a touch weaker than its close on Monday and still perilously close to its ERM floor of 3.400.

The Bundesbank was not thought to have been intervening yesterday, or at least not in anything like the public fashion of Monday, but the Bank of France was reported to have been in the market continuously in defence of the franc.

Few currency economists expect the franc to have anything more than a brief respite. Mark Austin, chief currency economist at Midland Global Markets, believes that, without a substantial German interest rate cut in either tomorrow or in two weeks' time, which he thinks is unlikely, the French authorities are in trouble.

The longer this drags out without the necessary help, the worse it gets and the greater the risks for the French economy.

The markets will today be looking for news of a cut in the

ie growth next year. □ US producer prices fell by 0.3 per cent in June, the largest monthly decline since March, 1991. The fall was bigger than most economists had predicted. The core rate of producer price inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, fell by 0.1 per cent against expectations that it would remain flat.

Major delighted, page 1
Stage of franc, page 10
Suicidal prices, page 22
Tempos, page 25

Bundesbank's repurchase rate as a cue to whether it will cut official rates tomorrow, although a substantial lowering of the repo rate is not expected. □ The German government passed a draft 1994 budget and a package of austerity proposals which Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said should clear the way for further German interest rate cuts. The 1994 budget foresees a 4.4 per cent increase in spending to DM478.4 billion and an average 2.3 per cent annual increase in the 1993-97 period. Of the total 1994 government expenditure, DM67.5 billion will be financed by new debt and DM67.3 billion will go towards servicing current debt.

By slashing social benefits, freezing ministers' salaries and drastically cutting state subsidies, Herr Waigel hopes to save DM21 billion next year and increase the savings to DM28 billion a year by 1996. The influential German Institute for Economic Research claims the proposal leave little room for interest rates cuts and would lead to nil economic

Sunday trading and the Budget deficit

One prediction can be made with some certainty about the heavily symbolic debate over the government's Sunday trading bill: protagonists on all sides will seek to cloak in rational-sounding arguments opinions grounded in emotion or ideology. This will be hard to achieve, since no in-depth analysis has been made of what will inevitably be a critical piece of social engineering.

Too much reliance will doubtless be placed on a study commissioned by the Home Office from London Economics, published as *The Economic Impact of Alternative Sunday Trading Regulations*. This appears to offer ammunition for all, not least because short-run effects on prices, jobs and pay of deregulation or of restricting present practice tend to be opposite to the long-run effects. They also tend to be insignificant in either direction. On the model's projections, for instance, full deregulation might at best save 35p a week on the average family's total shopping bills at the cost of 20,000 jobs out of 1.7 million.

That puts some perspective on yesterday's claim from the Consumers' Association that total deregulation was the only solution because it saved consumers most money, as it

does equally on arguments for or against other options for fear of job losses. The London Economics study, though a useful source of information, is not its most impressive. For instance, its headline projection is that average weekly retail wages might rise by £2.60 as a result of complete deregulation. Yet London Economics admits in the body of its report that this is unrealistic. High wage premiums for working on Sunday would probably fall under the impact of competition, since they would raise overall costs, but since the researchers cannot guess in advance how much of the premium would be eliminated, they have ignored this effect in their figures.

Surely such economic minutiae cannot be what the argument is really about. All the economic study really says is that the more trading is deregulated, the faster existing trends towards concentration in retailing will move. The tighter trading is restricted, the longer small family shops and independent traders will hold out against the tide. The more

fundamental impact of reform will be felt through changing patterns of work. Already, about half retail jobs are part-time. Since a seven-day working week is out, moving to a seven-day trading week would eventually make almost all direct retail jobs part-time.

Working in shops has never been highly paid, but full-time workers could at least have a million jobs from full-time to part-time will swell the growing number of British jobs that are inadequate to maintain a family at the minimum standards assumed in the social security rules. Market forces are creating ever more of what used to be called women's jobs. That insulting tag is no longer used but tells a story: such jobs provide additional rather than base family income. As changing employment patterns show, these jobs are increasingly not second jobs but the only declared earnings sup-

porting a family. The rest is made up by the taxpayer in social security. Precisely such trends as these are pushing the social security budget out of control and entrenching a chronic Budget deficit.

There is no longer an army of men or women second-earners, ready to come into the workforce as cheap labour. In some parts of the country, more women than men are already in work. Rather, taxpayers and those who lend money to the government are increasingly subsidising jobs. No wonder part-time working seems more attractive to some employers. Sunday working by one member of a family, like the much more general and, therefore, more important trend to unsocial hours, will also tend to undermine the nuclear family, as journalists can attest, putting even more single parent families into or near the social security net.

The impact of Sunday trading rules can be exaggerated. After all, a higher proportion of shops already open on Sunday in England and Wales than in de-regulated Scotland. If the debate is to go beyond freedom versus the Sabbath, however, it should focus on how social trends are ratcheting public spending upwards.



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Rich executives get richer as changes hit the boardroom

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WELL-PAID company executives received the biggest corporate pay increases last year, according to a new study of the boards of UK companies, which also finds that one in six top executives took a pay cut.

The findings of the survey of UK company boards, by Korn-Ferry, the international executive search consultancy, also suggest a significant shift in the size and composition of company boards, with the proposals of the Cadbury committee on corporate governance showing strong signs of being absorbed, but the position of women in companies is found to be still poor.

While the survey of The Times 1,000 companies shows the impact of the recession in the number of executives taking a pay cut, with 5 per cent of those studied seeing their pay fall by 10 per cent or more, usually in the loss of most, if not all, of their previous year's bonus — the study suggests that 41 per cent of executives had pay rises of up to 10 per cent, well ahead of inflation.

While median pay rises at 4.8 per cent were down on last year's figures of 9.10 per cent, a quarter saw their pay increase by up to 30 per cent, while 7 per cent saw even higher increases.

The survey, published yes-

■ Although boardrooms have not entirely escaped the pain of recession, 41 per cent of directors received pay rises of up to 10 per cent, well ahead of inflation

terday, which covered companies such as Dixons, Pilkington, Blue Circle, T&N, Lucas, Guinness, AEA, Nissan, Rank, Anglian Water, Pearson, and Nuclear Electric, said: "The better paid generally received greater increases."

Michael Brandon, a director of the consultancy, said: "The rich are getting richer." Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, who was present at the report's launch, said that the spread of executives' pay rises was so large that it confirmed the CBI's view that "there are lots of downs as well as ups on executive pay".

Mr Davies said that the survey showed that companies were taking account of the Cadbury proposals on the way companies are run, with a significantly greater proportion now splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive.

The report also showed that 85 per cent of the companies surveyed, as against 75 per cent last year, now conform to this pattern, and the survey also suggested a continued increase in part-time chair-

men and non-executive directors, leading to what Korn-Ferry said was the establishment of a new "cadre" of people taking such posts.

Professor George Bain, principal of the London Business School, who was also at the launch, said that the study showed the increasing educational base, both in terms of university degrees and business qualifications such as MBAs, of company boards.

Like Mr Davies, Professor Bain criticised companies' performances in promoting women to board level, with the study showing no increase in the number of women on company boards, in spite of such initiatives as Opportunity 2000, the government-backed drive to increase women's involvement in a range of organisations.

The study suggested, too, that company boards are becoming smaller, with 80 per cent of bigger companies having boards of six to eleven members. It also found that half the larger listed companies have as many non-executive directors as executives on their boards, or more.



Faring well: Colin Cooke, left, and John Foley, managing director of Triplex, which delivered a solid performance

Profit level is held at Triplex

TRIPLEX Lloyd, the West Midlands industrial engineering group, turned in a solid full-year performance, maintaining profits in spite of harsh trading conditions affecting its car parts and building products divisions (Philip Pangalos writes).

Improved margins helped Triplex hold pre-tax profits at £7.08 million in the year to end-March, virtually unchanged from £7.07 million last time. Turnover was £163.5 million (£167.2 million).

Colin Cooke, the chairman, said that the car parts division had experienced difficult market conditions in the second half of the year, but major investment projects were expected to benefit the operation in the current year.

The total dividend is maintained at 7p a share, with an unchanged final payout of 4.5p. Earnings dip to 9.8p (10.9p) a share, reflecting this year's £17.3 million rights issue.

Savills fights back as property revives

By Carl Mortished

THE surge in commercial property investment and renewed interest by overseas buyers in the London house market boosted fee income by £1.6 million at Savills last year. Turnover rose 7 per cent to £25 million, helping the quoted surveyors to transform last year's loss of £2.9 million into a pre-tax profit of £1.4 million for the year to April 30.

George Inge, chairman, said that the results were achieved by maintaining tight control of the group's cost base, down by £1 million on the previous year. "We have actually pushed up our turnover and increased our market share in what was a difficult trading year," he said.

Fee income from investment transactions was up by 25 per cent because of the influx of foreign money, as well as renewed activity from UK institutions, enabling Savills

Commercial to make an operating profit of £819,000 on turnover of £10.7 million. Agency work is still suffering from the recession and falling rental values, but Savills earned about £1 million from consultancy work for banks and receivers, including Canary Wharf's administrators. Overseas buyers gave a fillip to the top end of the London housing market at the beginning of this year and transactions rose from 278 to 404 in the period to April, with the average selling price rising 15 per cent to £405,000.

Savills generated £3.5 million cash, increasing funds on deposit at the year end from £2 million to £5 million. The return to profit means that it can resume dividends, with a 1p distribution for the year after 2.2p earnings per share.

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Back in the black: George Inge, Savills' chairman

Sackcloth on display at Aegis

By Martin Waller
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SACKCLOTH and ashes were the order of the day at the annual meeting in London of Aegis, the media buyer that was, in a former guise, the advertising agency WCRS, after institutional anger earlier this year at the generous payoffs made to former directors.

Frank Law, who replaced Peter Scott, one of the beneficiaries of the £3.7 million compensation package recorded in the latest accounts, as chairman, said that in the light of the Cadbury recommendations on corporate governance, existing directors' contracts would now give no more than two years of security. Mr Scott was on a five-year contract and was paid £2.25 million after quitting because the company's headquarters was moved to Paris.

Mr Law told shareholders that 19 executives of the Canal France business had voluntarily offered a reduction of between 7 per cent and 25 per cent in their pay. "The offer was accepted and has been much appreciated," he said.

Mr Law said the total cost of the group's 12-member board in 1992, including pay, expenses, accommodation and support staff, was about £4.8 million but it should fall to £2.7 million this year. Total employment costs rose by 40 per cent to £68 million, largely as a result of acquisitions, but would be cut, Mr Law said. Aegis had sold both its executive jets since he became chairman. One aircraft fetched £2.3 million last year, while the second went in January for £2 million.

Aegis's first half trading to end-June had been profitable but difficult, Mr Law said.



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Four split £27m bonus of shares at Cray Electronics

By Martin Flanagan

THE four businessmen who have transformed Cray Electronics over the past four years are in line for a £27 million all-share bonus. This was confirmed as the company took the wraps off pre-tax profits that have soared more than 1,000 per cent to £29 million from £2.3 million in the year to end-April.

The Cray directors to benefit from the share subscription package, which was part of a complicated three-phase incentive scheme when they came on board in 1989, are Roger Holland, chairman, Jon Richards, managing director, Jeff Harrison, finance director, and Sir Peter Michael, former Cray chairman and non-executive director.

Mr Richards said: "It is not a cash handout. It is an investment that has come good. We each invested £750,000 into Cray when we joined. In

the first two years, it looked like we had blown the money."

Mr Harrison said: "All the investors who stayed with us have made substantial gains themselves." He added that investors were now sitting on £5 for every £1 they invested when the team took over after controversy over the previous management's accounting policies.

The shares deal could lead to the quartet of company directors taking an 8 per cent stake in the company they have turned round.

Yesterday, Cray announced that, even stripping out gains from business disposals and exchange rates, it boosted profits to £17.6 million.

The group, which is a European leader in providing computer networks to businesses, says last year's acquisition of Dowdy's information technology business has been

assimilated smoothly. It is now part of the main Cray Communications division, which contributed £12.7 million of profits, compared with £3.7 million from Cray Systems and £900,000 from Cray Technology.

The latter, comprising principally the original Cray defence electronics companies, is not regarded as a core business, but is not being marketed for sale. However, Mr Richards said: "Anything is for sale at the right price."

The group now has cash balances of £12 million, compared with debts of £15 million a year ago. The directors said that they had reduced the cost base by £10 million in the past 18 months. Earnings per share leapt to 13.8p (1.9p) and a final dividend of 1p makes 1.5p (0.5p) for the year.

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Investor shows interest in doomed Timex plant

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Timex plant in Dundee that is set to close at the end of the year, after a bitter industrial dispute, may not be empty for long, according to Scottish Enterprise (SE), the government-funded development organisation.

Crawford Beveridge, the chief executive of SE, said that there had already been some interest from a potential investor whom he refused to identify. The investor was not American, he said. The Timex plant will be included in SE's portfolio of potential sites, which are marketed to overseas investors planning to locate in Scotland.

Mr Beveridge, unveiling the organisation's annual results, said that slower than hoped for economic growth meant that last year was a difficult one, but the Scottish economy had performed better than most could have expected.

The agency's budget of £449 million was only fractionally up on the previous year. However, new business starts rose from 4,000 in the year to end-March 1992 to 4,345 in the year to end-March 1993. Mr Beveridge said 40,000 jobs had been created or safeguarded in Scotland last year because of SE's investment.

Most of the £377 million budget was spent through the 13 local enterprise companies, marginally less than last year. A total of £184 million was spent on youth and adult training, down from £207 million, but the figure for those achieving vocational



Making their point: pickets venting their anger at replacement Timex workers

qualifications rose from 11,200 to 13,762. With the Scottish Office industry department, SE helped to win £100 million worth of new export orders for Scottish businesses. Scotland exports 67 per cent of its manufacturing output.

Donald Mackay, SE's chairman, said that there had been a huge growth in Scottish exports to the European Community, up from 23 per cent in 1973 to 58 per cent in 1992. Through "Locate in Scot-

land", a joint enterprise of SE and the Scottish Office, 65 inward investment projects were started, with a planned total investment of £352 million and the creation or safeguarding of 8,000 jobs.

Mr Beveridge said that as well as the £449 million invested directly in the economy, Scottish Enterprise had created spending of up to a further £800 million through its activities. He said it was too early to

say how the government's plans for cutting public spending would affect the budget in future years.

Professor MacKay denied reports that the European Community social fund, which contributes £20 million of SE's budget, was reconsidering its funding. "We have used the funds for the purpose for which they were intended and we are open to inspection. We have nothing to hide," he said.

Birse axes payout after £18m loss

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

BIRSE Group, the builder and civil engineer, has recorded a second year of big losses, but hopes to return to the black in the current trading year.

Birse shares fell 1p to 15p as the company announced pre-tax losses of £18.5 million in the year to April 30, increased from £12.3 million last year. There is no dividend, against a total of 1.65p the previous year. Peter Birse, the chairman, said that the company's bank-

ing facilities had been restructured to put its £27 million of debt on a three-year basis to allow time to sell the group's property portfolio, currently in the books at £35 million.

The construction division had slipped into an operating loss after continued pressure on margins and difficulties in securing satisfactory and timely settlements with clients on long-term contracts. Birse is increasingly concentrating

on more resilient areas of construction, such as water services and road-building, which each now account for about 30 per cent of workload.

The housebuilding side increased sales by a quarter, but further weakening of house prices led to continued losses. Mr Birse said that he was looking for a considerable improvement in its performance in the current year. Like much of the building

industry, Birse is waiting keenly for a final decision on the go-ahead for London Underground's Jubilee Line extension. The company has outstanding about £12 million of work for which it has bid.

"I think it will happen, but when is another matter," Mr Birse said. "It's beginning to sound a bit like a fairy tale."

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Caledonian offer to buy privatised British Coal

By Our Scotland Correspondent

CALEDONIAN Mining Co has put a proposal to the government to buy all the British Coal industry when it is privatised. The Newark mining company wants to see the assets of British Coal sold as a unit rather than piecemeal, which it says would lead to the death of the industry.

The company's proposals are said to have been well received by ministers. It is suggesting a transfer to private ownership of British Coal over a period, with the government initially holding 49 per cent and with 51 per cent in private ownership.

Colin MacLeod, chairman, says: "Caledonian would wish to own a significant part of the 51 per cent. As with other privatisations, the government holding could then be fed into the market place at intervals, as efficiency and profitability potential increases with private sector participation."

Caledonian also envisages the miners having a share of the business. It says it would welcome employee participation in share ownership, with subsequent bonus entitlements. In return, it would expect to be able to negotiate no-strike agreements and modern working practices.

The company says it has made a number of submissions to the government, but says it is not possible to quantify the detailed financial implications or to be specific about the selection of collieries until further information is available from the government or British Coal.

Pilkington edges up ahead of Italian deal

PILKINGTON, the glassmaker, is close to signing a deal of about 200 billion Italian lire (£85 million) to acquire Societa Italiana Vetro (SIV), the Italian glassmaker, from the liquidator of the collapsed state holding company EFIM. Pilkington is making a joint bid with Techint Finanziaria for SIV, a leading flat and safety glass maker in Italy, with sales of about £300 million and net assets of £155 million. Pilkington shares rose 1p to 130p yesterday.

Share prices generally continued to trade in narrow limits, investors still seeming to suffer from a lack of direction. The equity market recovered an early markdown, being helped by better than expected industrial production figures to finish higher, with the FT-SE 100 index up 6.2, at 2,837.1. Trading conditions remain thin and it was left to several small programme trades to boost turnover to 592 million shares.

Water companies saw early gains eroded after Ofwat, the industry regulator, gave warning that bills for domestic users are set to rise sharply to pay for higher quality standards being imposed by the European Commission.

Ofwat has asked the government to limit the impact on consumers. However, Anglian was eased 1p to 490p, after 498p. Southern 1p to 490p, after 497p. Welsh 6p to 560p, after 554p. There were sharply reduced gains for Northumbrian, up 5p to 573p, and Severn Trent, up 1p to 478p, while North West on 478p, South West on 519p, and Thames on 490p held steady.



dealings. Offered at 225p, the shares started at 210p and continued to lose ground, ending the session at 207p, a discount of 18p.

Insurers regained composure as worries about exposure to flood damage in America eased. There were gains for Commercial Union, up 11p to 615p, General Accident, up 9p to 622p, Guardian Royal Exchange, up 5p to 202p, Royal Insurance, up 2p to 320p, and Sun Alliance, up 1p to 373p. Kleinwort Benson

Legal & General, the life insurance group, climbed 15p to 500p after bullish comments by stockbroker Credit Lyonnais Laing. It expects the group to have halted the decline in new business of the past three years and that it may even register an increase in market share.

has told clients that GRE's price has run far enough and has switched its recommendation for Royal from buy to hold. It remains a buyer of Commercial Union and General Accident.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, was a nervous market, falling 25p to 987p in late trading, fearing repercussions of a detergent price war. Procter and Gamble, in the US, has cut the price of two

products. Other companies are expected to follow suit.

British Aerospace continued to progress, rising 7p to 427p, awaiting expected news of a Saudi Arabian contract. Sentiment was bolstered by the rise in sales of Rover cars. Rolls-Royce made headway on the back of support for BAE, adding 1.5p to 144p.

Cray Electronics encouraged profit-taking, falling 8p to 154p after better than expected full-year figures showing its recovery continuing.

Hamamatsu's A1 rose 6p to 304p after take-up of almost 97 per cent for its near-£200 million seven-for-15 rights issue at 25p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilt had a firm start, helped by another positive performance from sterling. However, prices came off the boil after industrial production figures appeared to scupper any remaining hopes of an early cut in interest rates.

Turnover rose sharply in futures, with 68,000 contracts completed in the September long gilt, down £4, to £107.152.

Index-linked issues were in demand. The Bank of England was able to exhaust remaining supplies of new tranches issued this month.

Treasury 9 per cent 2012 fell five ticks to £109.4. Treasury 9 1/2 1999 was £4 down at £111.

MICHAEL CLARK

UK loses EC tax battle

The government was found guilty yesterday of tax discrimination against foreign companies operating in Britain.

The European Court of Justice ruled that it was illegal under EC law to treat resident and non-resident companies differently over compensation for overpaid taxes.

The result is a victory for Germany's Commerzbank, which has a branch in Britain deemed non-resident for tax purposes. The branch had paid huge taxes, which were refunded because of the company's non-resident status. When it claimed compensation, the government refused.

Payout pegged
Real Time Control, which develops software, supplies and services systems for retail electronic point of sale (Epos) applications, is maintaining its dividend at 3p despite a 58.7 per cent slump in full-year profits to £492,000 (£1.19 million) in the year to end-March.

Wyko slumps
Wyko, the power transmission to heatings group, fell £20,000 in the red in its latest trading year compared with a taxable profit of £1.4 million last year. The total payout is cut to 1p (2.80p) via a 0.5p final.

GFSA shines
Net profits from the four gold mines in the Gold Fields of South Africa group rose by 14.7 per cent to £306.6 million (£61.3m) in the three months ended June.

ML in the black
ML Laboratories, the medical research company, moved into a profit of £65,089 in the six months to end-March (£447,008 loss).

Credit hope gives boost to Nikkei

Tokyo — Expectations of a credit easing swept the Nikkei index above 20,000 for the first time since June 15; it closed up 200.42, or 1 per cent, at 20,180.42, its highest level since June 14. Trading remained slim, with an estimated 320 million shares traded.

The market was boosted by buying in interest-rate sensitive banking shares, brokers said. Shares were also supported by higher bond prices, seen as another sign of a credit-easing soon.

New York — American shares were narrowly mixed at midday, weighed by some profit-taking and investor caution ahead of today's consumer price data. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 8.38 points, at 3,516.

Frankfurt — German share prices recovered from the day's lows, hit on profit-taking, helping the Dax to close in the upper half of yesterday's trading range at 1,807.16, down 11.01. Dealers spoke of a healthy correction after recent strong gains.

Sydney — Australian shares closed slightly up at a fresh high since the 1987 crash amid brisk trade in newly floated Woolworths shares. The all-ordinaries index rose 2.4 points, to 1,804.2. (Reuters)

RECENT ISSUES

AG Holdings (125)	128	-1	Eagle Trust Trust	97	-2
Anagen (100)	90	0	Eagle Trust Warrants	34	-1
Baring Chrysalis C (339)	356	...	Environet (110)	117	...
Baring Emg Mkt (810)	679	...	Euromoney Warrants 1993	161	+2
Business Post (120)	135	...	Field Group (250)	280	-2
Carphright (148)	166	...	Field Group (210)	261	...
Celtis International (100)	103	...	Finbury Smaller Cos C	149	...
Court Cavendish (225)	207	...	Govt Emerging Mkts	90	+1
Crabtree (150)	233	+1	Govt Emerging Mkts Wts	90	+1
Creston Warrants	71	...	Ivory & Stone (100)	90	...
Devro International (170)	192	-1	Ntho Ireland Elec (100)	139	-1

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RISES:		FALLS:	
SG Warburg	734p (+18p)	ADT	603p (-10p)
Bass	460p (+11p)	Sappi	453p (-21p)
Body Shop	207p (+9p)	Sherwood Group	136p (-11p)
GUS 'A'	1753p (+13p)	Lambert	345p (-10p)
Jacques Var	100p (+13p)	Unilever	977p (-25p)
MR Data Mgmt	182p (+15p)	Liberty Life	950p (-15p)
Commercial Union	615p (+11p)	Euro Disney	638p (-17p)
General Accident	622p (+9p)	Euro Disney Pub	1083p (-20p)
Legal & General	500p (+13p)	Thomson Corp	805p (-10p)
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Jobless army waiting to turn the tide of by-election battle

Philip Bassett says that unemployment figures out tomorrow may have a significant effect on the outcome of the Christchurch campaign

Two important questions for the government will arise in the unemployment figures to be announced tomorrow: has unemployment maintained its downward trend nationally — and has it done so in the South Coast town of Christchurch, before the crucial by-election in a fortnight? Party managers know that unemployment is the most electorally sensitive economic indicator, because it is the figure most understandable to people, and the one that touches them most directly.

On a quiet evening on the quay just below the town's priory, the Dorset town of Christchurch seems a world away from unemployment, the economy and politics. The priory's bells ring, a man and his grandson feed a bottle of swans and a dinghy drifts lazily by. Across town, a cricket team practices in the nets. Behind the church, white-clad figures concentrate on bowls.

But the reality of the wider world forces itself into this idyll. The fate of John Major, the prime minister, may well be affected by the election result, while Christchurch itself, like many similar towns throughout the south, has suffered in the recession. David Rendel believes unemployment will be a large factor in the Christchurch outcome. Mr Rendel was the Liberal Democrat candidate who wrested Newbury from the Conservatives earlier this year.

He said: "In some ways, Newbury and Christchurch are very similar. Neither constituency ever expected to suffer the major unemployment problems that the Conservatives' second recession has let us in for. He accepts that the rate of unemployment in Christchurch is not as high as elsewhere in the country, but says: "It's the high increases which have taken place in constituencies like Newbury and Christchurch which have hit hard."

Since unemployment started to rise nationally early in 1990, the number out of work in Christchurch has shot up by three times the national rate of increase — 224 per cent in the constituency, against 82 per cent for the UK. Although unemployment in Christchurch has fallen over the past four months, as it has nationally, the proportion of the constituency's jobless is, at 10.1 per cent, only a few decimal points lower than the national average.

In a constituency with a working population of about 30,000, as many as 3,000 men and almost 700 women are without jobs. Steve Rippon-Swaine, states manager at Hurn airport, the town's biggest employer, said: "We are at the bottom on unemployment. We have not been immune from the recession, and the local companies have gone through their worst. They have shed labour. But their profitability is now improving, and they're just about to consider re-employment."

Aviation and Christchurch are historically linked. De Havilland built Spitfires here in the war. Aircraft flight



Young at heart: a third of Christchurch's population is retired but business leaders say the town still has much to offer

recorders, the "black box", were invented and developed here, but the bumpy business of aviation has had its commercial crashes too. In the 1970s, what is now British Aerospace pulled out of Hurn airport with the loss of 3,000 jobs. Careful management and promotion has built the workforce at the 100 companies on the airport site up to about 2,500 — still about 500 down on its pre-recession level. The toll continues: ELS Aerospace, an aircraft maintenance company, shed almost 130 people. Penny and Giles, the "black box" maker, was sold last year to Bowthorpe, the electrical company, for £30 million — and since then, about a tenth of its workforce has been cut. Local business leaders are fearful of redundancies, or worse at Siemens-Plessey, another of the town's leading employers, because they are worried

that its defence base could be hit by the latest defence cuts.

Yet Christchurch is still a rich and pleasant town. Even though local estate agents reckon unmarketed housing developments have probably lost up to half their peak £300,000 value, Christchurch does not look or feel like — and indeed, is not — a town ravaged by recession.

Many companies are still doing well. Riggana, a marine rigging firm, has won a Queen's Award for industry. The town survived the decamping of J. Sainsbury to an out-of-town site by attracting Marks and Spencer to the centre. When the downturn in the motor industry saw the departure of Mann Egerton, the motor trader, its building stood empty for only a month until Cook's, a furniture store, took it over. Flight Refuelling International is a world leader in its field. Unlike in other

southern towns, the Queensway collapse did not lead to an out-of-town retail store standing idle; MFI moved in.

That is starting to push up employment. Stan Ford, whose family has been baking bread in the area since 1908, is recruiting people. With 32 retail outlets stretching along the South Coast as well as supplying Sainsbury's, he is adding to his 300-strong workforce; only a handful, but it is still new work. He sees no sign of a change in the clamour for jobs, with former company executives trying to get packing work. He said: "We had a man apply who used to be an executive in a print company who applied for a cleaning job. I took him on and he's now acting as my buyer."

Figures compiled by the government's employment service in Christchurch bear out the picture of a "very flat" local labour market. The fall in national unemployment may be partly explained by the pattern in Christchurch, with an increasing number of employers advertising for vacancies, but only for part-time jobs. In April and May, the town's JobCentre had 278 full-time and 155 part-time vacancies; employment department officials expect part-time vacancies to be dominant by the end of the year. The high skill base in Christchurch, led by avionics, means there are notable skills gaps: 28 per cent of the vacancies in the JobCentre are for protection and service occupations — hotels, catering, security guards — while only 8 per cent of those seeking work want those kind of jobs.

Employers, though, report few problems of labour supply as they try to expand businesses. Local business leaders, excited by unofficial reports that television coverage in Newbury was worth an estimated £20 million in publicity to companies there, are seizing the opportunity of the media spotlight on the constituency to try to promote the town. They have formed the Christchurch Initiative, to show people that the town has more to offer than the ageing population and idyllic setting. Andrew Carter, of the initiative, said: "There is more to the town than grammies playing bowls. We're not just heaven's waiting room."

Christchurch companies believe the economy and unemployment will be a factor in the by-election, even in a town where a third of the population is retired. Rollo Reed, technical director of John Reed & Sons, a manufacturer of steel structures employing about 300 people, said that while his company's business is good, "most people are pretty jarred off about the economy, whether they are directly affected or not."

While unable to gauge precisely the impact of factors on unpredictable events like by-elections, David Sanders, head of the government department at the University of Essex, says unemployment has come back as a political determinant, and that recent falls in the number out of work have not changed that much: "The fact that the recent changes in unemployment have been in the right direction doesn't seem to have helped the government at all."

Most City analysts predict flat jobless statistics, and ministers will be hoping that feelings of surprise, anger and resentment over the sharp rise in unemployment in many places in the South will not filter through to the ballot box. In a fortnight, Christchurch will show just how idyllic it finds the figures.



TEMPUS

Liquid capital

THE gyrations in the shares of water companies after publication of the latest report from Ofwat, demonstrates how jittery the stock market has become about regulatory pressures. This is hardly surprising, given the astronomical and rising cost of bringing the British water industry into line with utopian standards, but it is hardly reassuring for investors who face another year of uncertainty before Ofwat publishes the new price formulae.

In *Paying for Quality*, Ofwat has lobbied the question of water quality into the Department of the Environment's court. The water industry can afford to increase its annual capital spending by 74 per cent to more than £6 billion a year between 1995 and 2000, to meet existing and proposed European legislation, but only at a substantial cost to their

customers and shareholders. The government is now landed with a deeply political decision. Either it sanctions a sharp increase in water bills and a squeeze on water company dividends by backing EC legislation, or it risks a Brussels bonfire by trying to win a British exemption from some of the new standards.

Only when it receives a reply to its unpalatable question can Ofwat make its all-important assumption on the water companies' cost of capital. The regulator still looks certain to insist on a figure of less than 7 per cent, against the industry's wishes. Then the scope for dividend growth will increasingly depend on the water companies' unregulated businesses. The share price gap between successful diversifiers, such as Wessex and the rest, will grow ever wider.

Cray

AT first sight, the £27 million bonus shared by executive directors of Cray Electronics for a scant four years' work looks like another example of corporate Britain with its snout in the trough. The size of the payout is reminiscent of the executive reward schemes of the 1980s, in which company chiefs became rich overnight at shareholders' expense.

Proper judgment of the package cannot, however, ignore the tremendous achievements of the Cray team, which rescued a directionless and deeply indebted electronics group from almost certain receivership. In the intervening years, it sold and closed more than half of Cray's businesses and made two well-judged acquisitions.

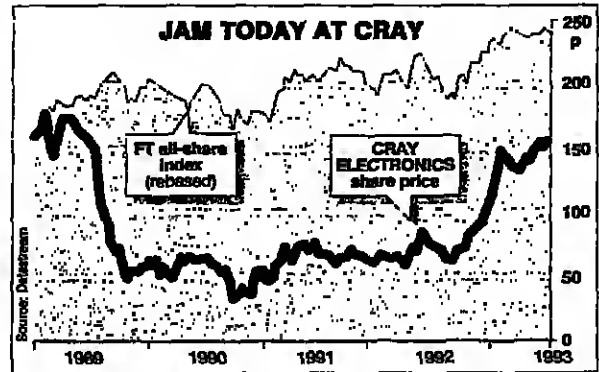
Today, Cray is a leader in data communication and

networking, one of the computer industry's fastest-growing markets. The balance sheet has also been transformed and the group now has £12 million in net cash.

Roger Holland, the new chairman, and his colleagues still have much to do. The 4 per cent trading margins from the rump of the non-core defence and electronics

businesses are unacceptable and they should be sold. The group needs to concentrate on building its communications division into a global business.

If investors still feel sour about the Cray bonanza, they should remind themselves of the grim options they faced in 1989. Back then, they were all too ready to agree the terms.



Surveyors

IN FINANCIAL terms, surveyors and estate agents run simple businesses. Lumpy fixed-costs give them a high level of operational gearing, so any boost to fee income should fall directly into profits. After the excesses of the 1980s, the quoted surveyors have taken a knife to their overheads and theoretically are now poised for growth, as the property market recovers.

Actual evidence of profits improvement in this season's results remains mixed, despite yesterday's turnaround at Savills. Many firms still rely on professional fees rather than transaction income to pay bills. The recent boom in investment work for foreign buyers and domestic funds is welcome, but solid growth in fee income for most surveyors depends on the tenant market, which is still mostly dormant. Property advice is a sector that suffers from over-capacity and low entry costs, so the surveyors' market share is being eroded by competition from management consultants and accountants. With rental growth unlikely to reappear

for at least a year, the industry needs to reduce its capacity further and that will mean more pain for the less successful firms.

Birse

PETER Birse, chairman of Birse Group, is probably right when he says the company should return to profit this year. But the revival has more to do with accounting than with an improvement in trading.

Masked within its operating loss, Birse has effectively made provisions against its contracting business equivalent to 3 per cent of turnover. This should enable the group to report a contracting profit in the current year, despite the dire market conditions.

No debt accounting can hide the worrying state of shareholders' funds, which have been whittled down by trading losses from £45 million in 1990 to £13 million. This offers little support for a company that generates more than £300 million of turnover a year. Contracting is a notoriously accident-prone business, and one troublesome contract could obliterate shareholders' funds. With so many uncertainties, the shares are best avoided.

Output

THE gilt-edged market understandably treated yesterday's manufacturing output figures with scepticism. If the statistics are accurate, then Britain is poised on the verge of an economic miracle that would put even South Korea in the shade.

Even if the timing of the Whit bank holiday did mess up the official calculations, the production figures do confirm that the economic recovery is still intact and even gathering speed, which should silence Jonahs in the City for a spell. Some economists are still setting too much store by the sluggish consumer spending figures, without applauding the benefits that an export-led recovery will bring to inflation and the balance of trade. Kenneth Clarke must ensure that the country can maintain its economic momentum, and that inevitably means another rate cut this autumn to prevent sterling appreciating further.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Playing the pay game

PRESSURE has been mounting to curb huge pay, pay-off and pension deals awarded to British businessmen in recent months. But no one, it seems, has taken the criticism quite so seriously as Christopher Sporborg, chairman of Hambros Insurance Services Group. A quick perusal of the 1993 annual report and accounts of Hambros Bank's new loss adjusting and insurance broking subsidiary reveals that the chairman received no emoluments. Even managing director Nicholas Page, the highest-paid, received a salary of just £47,000. But there is more to this apparent financial altruism than meets the eye. Yesterday Page told me: "These statutory papers don't tell the whole story." Hambros Insurance Services, formed last autumn and listed in March, did not start paying its chairman until April 1. Page, who assures me that Sporborg will receive £30,000 this year, will himself benefit from a top-up to £150,000.

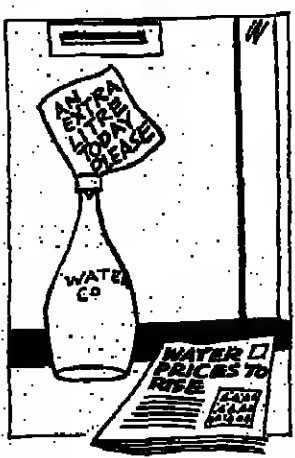
Prickly pair

SO farewell then, Ramada socialism. The yuppie wing of the Labour party, dubbed Ramada socialists after a glittering eighties conference based in Brighton's former Ramada Renaissance hotel, will find that the hotel's next name will be more appropriate for the dour, prickly party of the nineties. After a short interregnum as the Hospitality Inn, Brighton's newest sea-front hotel — as opposed to the

stodgy old Tory Grand — is to be dubbed the Brighton Thistle. Robert Peel, still in charge of Mount Charlton Thistle Hotels despite its ownership by Brierley Investments and the Singapore government, announced the expansion of the Thistle chain yesterday, and the Brighton flagship is on the list for conversion, though perhaps not in time for the meeting of the brothers in Brighton in October. Peel — as smooth a Scot as John Smith himself — still nurses a low opinion of the City; the problems at Queens Mount, he complains, should have been spotted long ago by all these expert analysts. With whom he will have to cultivate a new relationship should Mount Charlton, as he wishes, come back to market in a couple of years — possibly renamed the Thistle Group. The shadow cabinet would approve...

Jumbo invasion

FORTRESS City will today be invaded by 16 "jumbalances" to raise money for the Across



Trust, the charity which takes the handicapped and chronically ill on accompanied holidays throughout Europe in its fleet of £250,000 ambulance-coaches. Only two weeks ago Colin Line, the Henderson Crosthwaite electronics salesman who doubles as the charity's principal City fund-raiser, returned from a coach holiday with 30 disabled to Bruck in Austria. His efforts with the International Equity Dealers Association to cajole City folk into contributing to the acquisition of Jumbalances Mark 16 will pay off today when thousands will pass the new holidaymobile outside UBS headquarters in Broadgate. Other Jumbalances looking to raise cash during the charity's annual City of London Flag Day, will be parked on Queen Victoria St, Noble St, St Andrews St, by Holborn Circus, Liverpool St and Monument St. Last year Across Trust raised £15,000, a sum they are hoping to top this year.

KNIGHTHOODS and other honours bestowed upon esteemed holders of credit and charge cards appear to be nothing but trouble for the purveyors of plastic. A newly-titled customer recently asked American Express to emboss the honour on a new card. Amex explained that there was not enough room on the card to fit his long surname, first name and title. Nor could the man's first name be shortened. But after contemplating the dilemma for some time, Amex had a one-off card printed with slightly smaller letters so he can pay proudly. That will do nicely.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Unemployment and the consumer

From Dr W.M. Philip
Sir, I am an old-fashioned economist, ex-London School of Economics. My insistence on the inter-relatedness of all the social sciences underpinned by an ethic, gives me a mature outlook on "economics". It might seem impudent of me to offer an entirely other view of unemployment had I not found in a long Cassandra-like life that my theses come to pass 20 years or so from their exposition.

Unemployment is nothing to do with Keynes, finances, interest rates, savings etc; or little in comparison with two long-term factors:
A: The whole industrial and technological revolutions were put on train in order to reduce labour, eg coal miners with silicosis and child chimney sweeps with blistered knees etc.
B: The Western economies are saturated with deep pile carpets, coloured bathroom suites, fitted kitchens and all

the electronic delicacies man can devise. There is little left to do: ask the women of the house, with disposable nappies and convenience foods, for an example which could be multiplied.

The answer lies in two parts:
A: A strict apportionment of the work left to be done leading, of course, to apportionment of labour costs in terms of diminished wages per labourer.
B: Either a recognition that the consumer is saturated (apart from the Third World which induces another factor but does not eliminate [A]), or proceed with a throw-away society and a mad development of unneeded and unwanted which, incidentally, like fruit machines and drugs are dragging all of us down.

Yours truly,
W.M. PHILIP,
Drochdaid-Geal,
Kilberry by Tarrbert,
(Loch Fyne), Argyll.

Lesson from thirties

From Mr Peter Robeson
Sir, Harry Woolf (Business Letters, July 7) is right: an earlier generation learnt the lesson from the experience of the thirties: to quote a League of Nations 1944 publication: "The period under review demonstrates amply the futility of seeking competitive export advantages through exchange depreciation. In the great depression there were few, if any, countries that were able to gain any substantial or lasting relief from depression at home by means of 'exchange dumping'." Do we have to learn it all over again?
Yours faithfully,
PETER ROBESON,
Thatchers, Happisburgh,
Norwich, Norfolk.

Help the little people

From Mrs J.M. Seed
Sir, No, Mrs Annabel Geddes (Business Letters, July 6) is not barmy. As a widowed pensioner, I depend on investment income to augment my modest pension and pay my way.
With interest rates falling, and decline in share value, my income is decreasing dramatically. The suggestion that directors' fees should be in ratio to profit level and annually adjusted is excellent. However, I fear that calls for a mere equitable situation from us "little people", will continue to go unheeded.
The rich get richer, and the average and poor get poorer.
Sincerely,
JOAN SEED,
Manchester.

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The commercial value of peak-time TV news may have been underestimated, says Roger Graef



On screen: Michael Buick of BBC News (left), Ted Koppel, ABC's anchorman, and Julia Somerville of ITN. News ratings could be needed more than some believe

Cashing in on the news

At a time when the moral wellbeing of British television is being questioned, it is good to learn that a big international deal has been based on a handshake. That is the basis of the agreement between the BBC and ABC in America to share their news gathering.

No money is changing hands in the BBC-ABC deal. Each can use what they want of the other's output. ABC is stronger in Moscow, the BBC has more depth in Bosnia. It makes sense — and benefits both partners and their viewers in a way that is all too rare these days.

ABC's evolution into one of the world's leading news organisations is encouraging, especially in the light of the farrago over the proposal to shift *News at Ten* to an earlier slot in the evening (which the ITV companies are due to raise all over again at their annual meeting with the Independent Television Commission tomorrow).

Coming as it does from the cauldron of competition, ABC's view of news and current affairs is instructive. Two decades ago, ABC was always third among the big three American networks, behind CBS and NBC, and far downmarket of CBS with its presti-

gious news division, built by Fred Friendly and Edward R. Murrow. Even after their departure, CBS's *Sixty Minutes* maintained its presence as a weekly current affairs milestone that garnered the sort of audiences comedy producers would kill for.

Ironically, as the accountants took over CBS and ultimately decimated its news division, ABC was in the process of expanding its own under Roone Arledge. Arledge was given the task and resources to make ABC into a global news power. Fifteen years later, ABC is considered equal to the world's most respected news organisation, the BBC, and its other public service equivalent, NHK in Japan, also a partner in the deal.

ABC now has two weekly current affairs shows in prime time: 8pm and 10pm respectively. Both win their time slot against programmes like *Knots Landing* and *LA Law*. They not only bring prestige to the network, they also make a profit. A third weekly prime time show is to be launched in January.

This perspective sits oddly with ITV's efforts to banish *News at Ten*

to the margins of prime time. The debate has been clouded by the programme's supporters, who claim that it is good at attracting the youngish upmarket men beloved of advertisers: in fact it is better at delivering less-desirable downmarket men over 55. Zenith Media, which buys time slots for advertisers, asks, for example why

News divisions keep on delivering audiences at a relatively low cost

6.30pm should be thought so bad when 7pm is deemed a good slot for *Channel 4 News*?

A stronger argument used by the champions of *News at Ten* is the editorial case and the need to avoid leaving the evening to the BBC. But there is also a third argument: strangely, in these days of economic reductionism, the programme's supporters may have underestimated the commercial value of *News at Ten* as well as the cost of its replacement.

The main commercial argument

for moving the programme is to make room for drama and feature films, to bring in larger and more saleable audiences. This is called "living in the real world" by the slightly defensive apologists for change. Yet the "reality" of supplying high-ratings drama and movies five days a week all year round is that it costs a fortune to produce them. Setting the cost of production against the likely income from the ratings makes the equation much less certain.

It used to be that broadcasters all over the world saw their investment in news as a loss leader, designed for prestige and to keep their franchise. That is no longer the whole story. The cost of mounting a new series such as *Roseanne*, with an expensive star, is massive — and so is the risk.

Bob Murphy, vice-president in charge of ABC News, says: "Networks are interchangeable — their fortunes rise and fall over the years as those gambles succeed and fail. But news divisions keep on delivering reliable audiences at a relatively low cost."

"We've made money for the past two years — and so has NBC News."

If it weren't for the Gulf war and the party conventions, we'd have made even more. We see news as an expanding market."

It will be a sad day when news and current affairs coverage is determined by profitability, as many people fear. But it happens that *News at Ten* is also profitable and could be more so if sold more aggressively. As one media executive said: "ITV is run by schedulers who think of ratings, not marketing people who think of revenues minus cost." They have been protected against real competition for so long that they have had no need to do the kind of detailed market analysis common to other media and manufacturing businesses.

Holding on to schedule milestones will become all the more vital with the arrival of more channels. Counting terrestrial, local cable and satellite, there are already 57 channels available to British viewers. ITN could have its own full time news channel like CNN and the BBC's own World Television Service. But then viewers would leave ITV to watch it — so it would need to promote its own news to keep them. Like ABC, it might try a half-hour magazine format at prime time. How about 10pm?

TV: a mission to complain

Lady Howe intends to put the makers of bad-taste programmes on the spot

Is Lady Howe of Abercon, a 61-year-old Tory "do-gooder" whose favourite programmes include an old situation comedy and the *Open University*, really the most suitable person to decide the precise degree and amount of adultery, incest, murder and foul-mouthed the public should be allowed to watch on television?

If she is — something many people in the broadcasting industry doubt — how can she possibly find time to do the job? She has a string of lucrative directorships and membership of countless worthy committees making demands on her "quality time".

A month after becoming chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, which deals with complaints about taste and decency on television and radio, Lady Howe has ready answers for those who doubt her credentials.

With the experience of five years on the juvenile bench in inner London magistrates courts, three years on the parole board and four years on the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid, rostral panes — a current preoccupation of broadcasters and commentators — was on her daily agenda long before many of today's programme-makers were weaned off *Blue Peter*.

Having served on inner-city school governing bodies, on advisory committees on both the nursing profession and local government, and attended board meetings of some of the biggest retail companies, she has, arguably, more experience of the lives of most viewers than the heads of BBC1, ITV and Channel 4 put together.

If anyone is left with any doubts about her commitment to her new job, Lady Howe points out that she is "rationalising" what she elegantly refers to as her "portfolio career".

Although she insists that her personal preferences will count less than the results of research into viewer attitudes and programme contents, Lady Howe does hold strong views:

- Pornography: "It's absolutely without worth... I can see no point in it anywhere".
- On-screen sex: "I object to unkind sex, where women are portrayed as victims".
- Violence: "Too much violence is surely a bad thing per se".
- The dangers of ignoring the family-viewing watershed: "It is a fact that children quite often copy bad things".
- Women: "We need more positive role models".

But what can she actually do at the head of a watchdog body which has no powers to prevent transmission, whose code of practice is not legally binding and whose most common form of punishment is a reprimand in its monthly *Complaints Bulletin*?

An arch politician, Lady Howe believes that the council's power lies in its ability to use media attention and public opinion to exert pressure on broadcasters. "People need nudging and I am here to nudge. Sometimes they need to hear someone banging on about something before they act." She intends to visit the broadcasters. "One question I shall ask is, would you be ashamed if your children watched your programmes?"

Lady Howe is likely to look favourably upon the report published yesterday by the National Consumer Council, recommending that the BSC and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission be replaced with a single, more powerful, complaints body. "It would be a good idea to incorporate the two bodies and expand them into more of a consumer body," she says.

Her greatest task, however, will be to persuade the broadcasters that the council really matters. "There are a lot of wonderful things on television, but not enough emphasis on the positive side of humanity. I will be putting hard for broadcasters to recognise the need, for tremendous self-discipline," she says.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

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THEATRE page 30
Debbie Gibson, 'Sandy'
in a new production of
Grease, opening in the
West End tomorrow

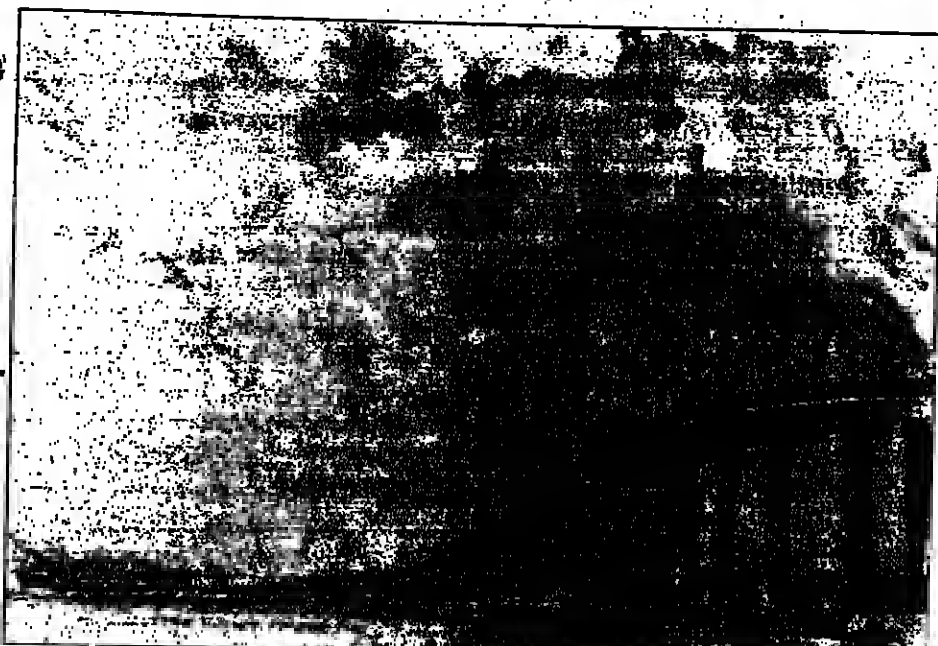
ARTS

MUSEUMS page 31
Richard Ormond of the
National Maritime
Museum, in receipt of a
massive new bequest



Marcus Binney on British bridge design compared with the rest of the world

Spanners still in the works



Cable stay: The proposed second Severn River Crossing, which is to be designed by Ronald Weeks. Illustration courtesy of the Percy Thomas Partnership

Around the world the 1990s promised to be a golden decade of bridge building, with British engineers playing a leading role. But in the eyes of critics, led by the Royal Fine Art Commission in a new, scathing publication, Britain is also topping the league for ugly bridges. And the prime culprit is seen as the Department of Transport.

Many motorway bridges have been condemned as ponderous and badly proportioned. The Department is now also under attack, however, for its choice of design for two major Thames crossings: first for the M25 bridge at Dartford; and second for rejecting the spectacular bow-string design for the east London river crossing at Woolwich by Santiago Calatrava.

Last week the RFA published *Bridge Design*, a report of its big seminar last year. James Sutherland, the engineer on the commission, talks of "bitter regret" at the missed opportunities on the Thames.

A further criticism has come from the RFA for Scotland over the rejection, on grounds of cost, of a fine design for the bridge to Skye by top German engineer Fritz Leonhardt. The Department is stunned. Over the last three decades it has presided over the building of three of the world's top 12 suspension bridges — first the Humber Bridge, which still boasts the world's largest single span at 1,410 metres, followed by the Forth Road Bridge at 1,006 and the first Severn Bridge at 988m.

Specific criticisms of the Dartford Bridge are that the pylons are too spindly for the piers below, the wind-shielding is clumsy, the cable anchors are crude and no fewer than four different types of concrete pier are used. When Lord St John of Fawsley, the RFA chairman, described the bridge as "a disaster" in his annual report, this proved too much for Dick Gillespie, the managing director of the crossing. "If a member of my staff were to use emotive terms like this in describing something which is clearly not a calamity, or a sudden or great misfortune, I would feel the need to correct him," he says.

100' and 400 metres but the French are building a cable stay bridge at Honfleur, Pont de Normandie, with an 850-metre span.

Ronald Weeks, who is designing the second Severn Crossing, another cable stay bridge, explains the difference. "With a suspension bridge you hoist the cables on to the posts, suspend the hangers from them and attach sections of bridge. With a cable stay you erect the post, or posts, and build out a bit of bridge in each direction."

The big difference visually is that the cables of a suspension bridge follow a gentle curve, while the ties of a cable stay are rigidly straight. One basic decision is whether they are parallel or fan out, which they are almost bound to do if the bridge is of any length. The most stunning example to date is Calatrava's Expo Bridge at

starts making sketches with his pencil.

One reason why San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge remains the greatest of all is the sheer strength of line. The posts, the decks and even the cables are sturdy enough to register at great distances, whereas the Humber and Bosphorus bridges, for all their breathtaking spans, lack the same power. "On a dull day the cables of the first Severn Bridge can actually disappear, which is quite disturbing," says Weeks.

We have moved far from the time when an 1830s textbook told engineers to design robust structures to give the public confidence, but Anthony Hunt is one British engineer who believes in a certain solidity. "The young crazies in my office will work away to show a tension rod can be reduced from 75 to 50mm. But I have to say it will look bloody awful."

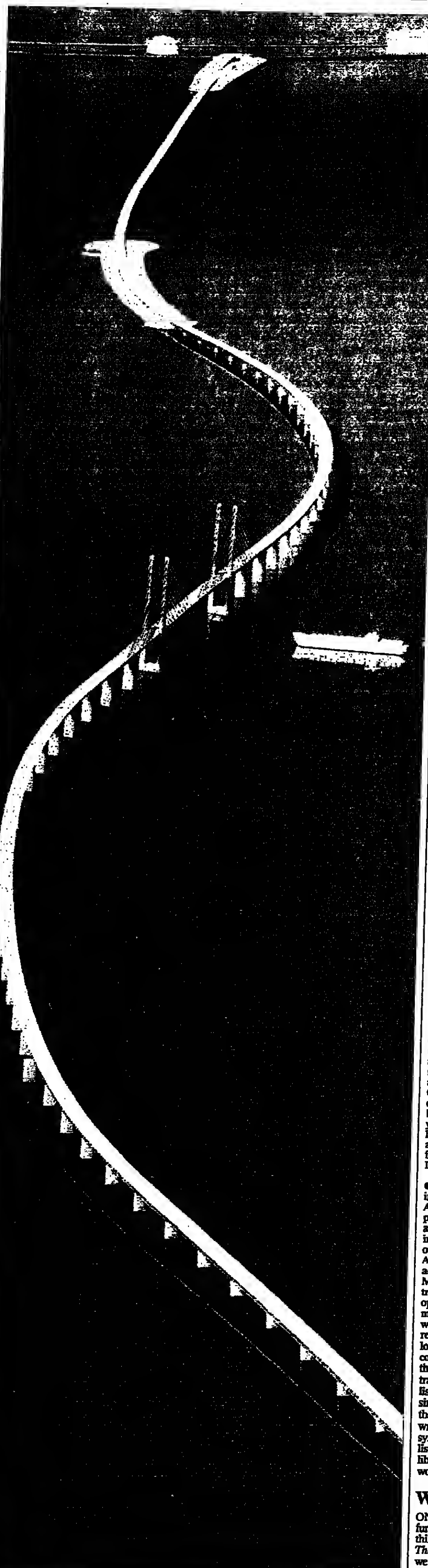
The other abiding beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge is the unity and consistency of the colour of all the parts. Colour is now set to make a comeback in bridge design. Ronald Weeks explains: "Cables have to be protected from the weather and a black polythene sheath stands up best to ultraviolet light, but now it is possible to snap on a brightly coloured outer sheath like pipe insulation."

Engineers believe strongly in competition. Calatrava says: "Ninety per cent of our work is won in competition." The engineer Robert Benaim argues that bridges must be considered separately from the very large highway projects that go with them, allowing more specialist designers to be involved.

Now the Department of Transport is to hold what the weekly *New Civil Engineer* calls its "first ever design competition" for a proposed Blackwall Bridge. Phil Bishop, the news editor, says that the decision to abandon the approach road to the east London crossing through Oxleas Wood "may also lead to another competition and put Calatrava back on the map". Architects look set to play a more important role in bridge design, particularly figures such as Sir Norman Foster, Nicholas Grimshaw and Sir Richard Rogers, who already work closely with engineers on design. Grimshaw feels passionately: "Buildings come and go but bridges stay forever. The responsibility to get it right is enormous."

The star of the 1990s is likely to be the Messina Suspension Bridge with a span of 3.3 kilometres linking Calabria and Sicily. The proposed Gibraltar Bridge linking Spain and Africa would have a span of up to five kilometres. The proposed Tokyo Bay mouth crossing would have a two-kilometre span and at Akashi Kaikyo, a 1950-metre span is already under construction.

Bridge Design, the Royal Fine Art Commission Seminar, HMSO (£11.50, paperback)



Another cable stay bridge: The Oresund Crossing, in Ove Arup & Partners' proposed design for the link between Denmark (at the top in this model) and Sweden

A class act but it is only an act

It is the stuff of nightmares. There you might be, innocently sipping a cocktail at a fashionable London party, when Gerald Scarfe approaches with a lady from *The Tatler* and a small camera team, to deconstruct your jewellery and announce your class on the telly. "What do you think?" he asks his companion, looking you up and down. Upon which she lunges for your cheap earrings and lets out a cry of horror.

"I feel quite faint," declares the *Tatler* lady. These were bought in John Lewis for £4.99. Scarfe hasn't even removed the price tag! Every one gasps and looks at you accusingly. "Say 'lavatory,'" she snaps. "Ex 'toilet,'" you reply. "Say 'napkin!'" "Um, serviette." Seconds later, you find yourself ejected on the pavement.

The moral of which is clear. Obviously you should have said karzy.

If last night's Scarfe on Class (BBC 2) was itself a bit like a nightmare, it was intentionally so. Not because of what it revealed about the politics of contemporary class structures, but because Gerald Scarfe's favourite mode of expression is the visual metaphor (especially of the dreamy mad tea-party variety) and ultimately the images came in such tumbling profusion that you wanted to yell, "No room! No room!"

Someone had only to mention that the aristocracy were akin to thoroughbred horses, and immediately a stable door would crash open amid loud neighing noises, and a groom would issue out a prancing Old Etonian on a leading rein. Someone else had only to say that you could "tell" breeding the way you can "tell" old furniture, and hey presto, a Scarfe drawing appears of the man himself, transmogrified into a fancy chair.

Scarfe on Class more than made up in entertainment what it lacked in analysis, but it still left you wondering why

it had been made. Scarfe claimed to be fascinated by his own ability to transcend class, to stab the aristocracy with his cruel caricaturing nib (scratch-scratch, it went), yet still sup with them on equal terms. But his question about his own snobbery was not answered, hardly even addressed. And in the "Class Handicap" — a puzzling extended horse-race metaphor in which Scarfe rode a real horse against others with names such as "Working Boy" — he won, which was presumably significant.

Not so much an essay, then, as a bid for a clip on *Did You See...?* or *Pick of the Week*, Scarfe on Class was packed with amazing soundbites, most notorious of which will be the extraordinary race-track interview with three young fogies in hats and barbour.

"What do you think of the working class?" asked Scarfe. "They're great," rejoined an aristocrat, fourth runner-up in a Rupert Everett lookalike competition. "They go into their profession or their trade, whatever they want to go into, and they do a brilliant job. The country would not survive without them. Who on earth would, you know, look after our, you know, horses, you know? Who'd look after things like that?"

What I didn't understand was this tiresome business about the milk in the tea — whether it goes in first. "When do you put in the milk?" Scarfe asked all the aristocrats. "Oh after always, never first." But if everyone knows that in polite society it goes in last, then anyone wishing to play Scarfean snakes and ladders can learn this, can't they?

For a one-step passport to toffdom, it's pretty easy to remember. So good luck to the social climbers and their milk-splashing. Especially if they are really handy with the two-litre plastic bottle.

LYNNE TRUSS

Happy to stay in Birmingham

SIMON Rattle has extended his contract with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, making him the longest-serving music director in the orchestra's 73-year history. Rattle will stay on until at least August 1996, with an option to extend beyond that. "Signing the contract must have been the easiest signature I have ever had to write," he says.

Persistent music-industry rumours that Rattle is also on the point of signing as music director with a major American symphony orchestra, possibly Boston, are being strenuously denied by Rattle's agents. Rattle came to the CBSO in 1980 as principal conductor and artistic adviser, becoming music director ten years later. Together they have won worldwide acclaim and an enviable reputation far from the machinations of the London orchestral scene.

MOZART could never have imagined it: *Don Giovanni* in Arabic. His operatic masterpiece now joins *Così fan tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro* in the select group of Italian operas available in Arabic. Dr Ali Sadek, an Egyptian anaesthetist and self-described Mozart fanatic, resolved to translate the trio of Italian operas to spread Mozart's music throughout the Arabic world. *Così fan tutte* was released in 1989; *Figaro* followed in 1991. All three are conducted by Youssef El-Sisi of the Cairo Symphony Orchestra. Sadek, who claims to have listened to Mozart every day since he was ten, supervised the entire presentation and wrote the programme notes, synopses in Arabic and English, and the histories of the librettist, composer and the works.

ARTS BRIEFING

several more adult offerings will have joined the repertoire. Look not only for *Absence of War*, the third part of David Hare's state-of-England trilogy, and for the second half of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, but for Sophie Treadwell's *Macbeth*, an American expressionistic play of the 1920s, which will be directed by Stephen Daldry.



Stephen Daldry: At the National, in the West End

whose imaginative revival of *An Inspector Calls* won every major award for 1992 and now finds itself with a West End transfer, opening at the Aldwych on August 21.

Last chance...

THE musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman* began as a novel entirely written in dialogue. Manuel Puig, the exiled Argentinian author, rewrote his book as a play, the play was filmed; Kander and Ebb then turned it into a musical, and this in turn will shortly be filmed. When Harold Prince's production opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre (071-379 5399) some objected to the idea of making a glamorous musical out of such suffering, even though the theme is the power of fantasy to keep hope alive. This is the last week in which to make up your own mind: the final performance is on Saturday.

Windy outlook

ONCE was a treat, twice was fun — but will the National's third revival of *The Wind In The Willows* leave us feeling we have been delighted long enough? At least by Christmas, when Alan Bennett's adaptation of Kenneth Grahame returns to the Olivier,

Richard Morrison reports on the ambitious plans for the National Maritime Museum

Flagship on a tide of history

A huge windfall has lifted morale at one of Britain's top museums, after its ambitious £57 million plan for refurbishment by the end of the century had been buffeted by the recession and government cuts. The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich — which houses the world's largest collection of marine paintings, tools, maps, navigational equipment, weapons and treasure — will announce this week that it has received a gift of £750,000 from the estate of the late Leopold Muller. The Czech-born hotel magnate died five years ago, leaving a trust fund of £25 million to be distributed to educational, heritage and medical charities.

The money will be used by the NMM to build a new education complex, which will provide classrooms, interactive exhibits, and a "sea lab" for the 70,000 children who visit the museum each year. "It will help us to stimulate their interest in maritime history, technology, science and art," says Sue Millar, the museum's head of education. Richard Ormond, the NMM's director, expects the building on the Lee-ward Muller Education Centre will begin next January.

Muller came to England shortly before the second world war. His wife and two daughters perished in the Nazi holocaust, and Muller resolved that the fortune he made through hotels and restaurants — his De Vere chain included the Grand Hotel in Brighton and the Mirabelle and Connaught Rooms in London — would revert on his death to the country that gave him refuge.

"Because of his special interest in children Muller would have strongly supported the new centre," says Michael Garston, the chairman of the Muller trustees. "It will further the museum's aim of teaching more and more people the importance of the sea in Britain's history."

It will, perhaps, also have a psychological impact even greater than that, boosting the confidence of staff in a museum which has been among the most innovative in Britain, but has suffered financial setbacks beyond its control. It achieved huge popular successes with the Armada quatercentenary exhibition in 1988, the Henry VIII exhibition in 1991, and "Pirates" last year — the latter carefully timed to coincide with the release of the

Spielberg film *Hook*. Its plans for the next few years are equally spectacular: a big Nelson exhibition in 1995 (marking the bicentenary of Nelson's first sea victory); a show on ocean liners in 1996; and in 1997 an exhibition celebrating Hong Kong as the colony returns to Chinese rule.

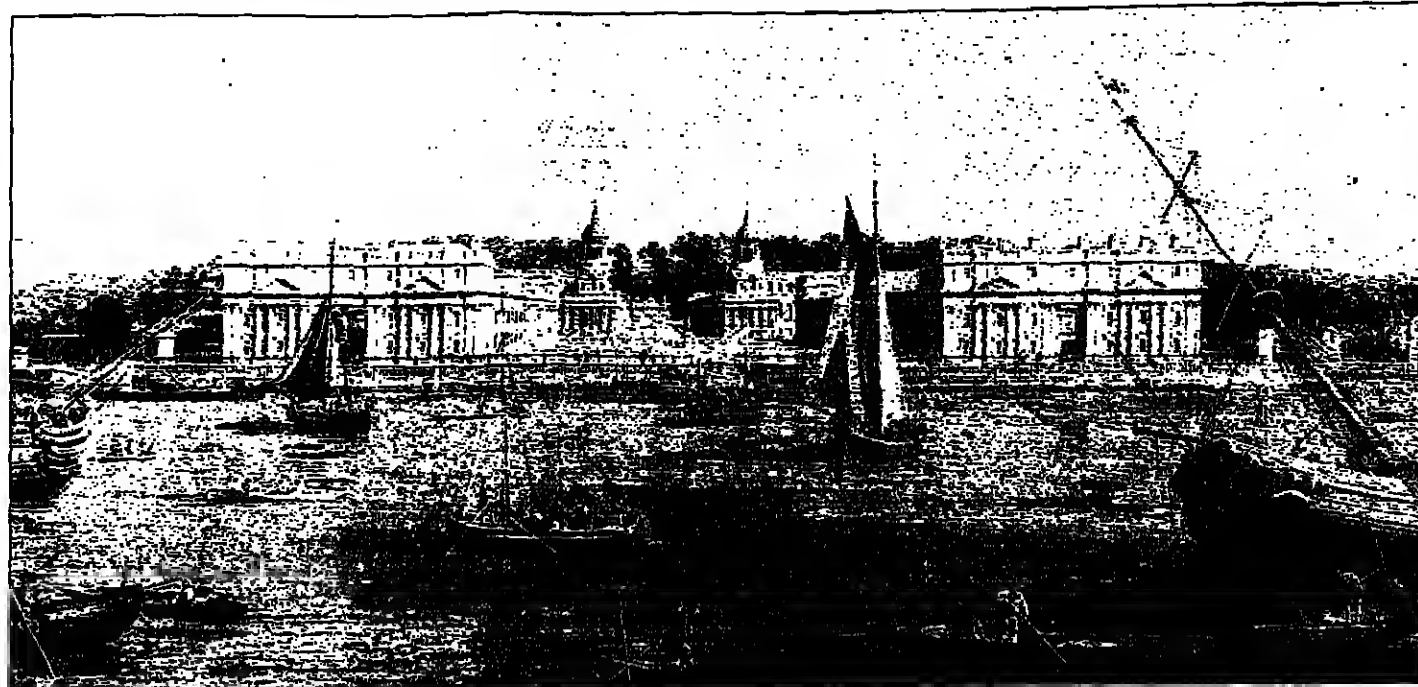
And all these exhibitions only enhance the splendours that are permanent fixtures in the museum: the new, video-age "20th-century seapower" gallery, sponsored by the Taiwanese shipping chain Evergreen; the great bronze Tudor cannon salvaged from the wreck of the Mary Rose; the masterly battle paintings of the Van de Velde, father and son; Nelson's uniform, pierced by the musket-ball that killed him; Captain Cook's sextant; royal barges of different epochs; and some of the oldest surviving compasses, globes and charts in the world. These are some of the two million items that bring half a million visitors into the NMM each year.

But the museum has had disappointments. In its most recent newsletter it had to announce that "the cut of 13 per cent in expected government grants will lead to a postponement of the plan to redevelop the museum's main galleries, and possibly a rationalising of other services". This five-year masterplan had begun in splendid style with the refurbishing of the Old Royal Observatory. That reopened in March in time for the tercentenary of John Harrison, the man who invented the marine chronometer. Later projects are planned to include a £9 million remodelling of Neptune Hall in the main museum building.

The idea is that all will be completed in time for the millennium. But the bold scheme hinges on raising enough private and corporate support. There is excellent precedent for that: indeed, the 59-year-old NMM owes its very existence largely to the generosity of the Scottish shipbuilder Sir James Caird who, after helping to preserve Nelson's flagship Victory at Portsmouth, later devoted much of his fortune to establishing the NMM. His patronage, measured in today's prices, would have amounted to almost £100 million.

Why is it important for the NMM's schemes to succeed? Perhaps chiefly so that Greenwich does not squander the supreme advantages it possesses as a world centre of maritime heritage. The "Historic Maritime Greenwich" initiative launched a few years ago brought under one umbrella all the borough's main attractions: the Royal Naval College, the Cutty Sark, last of the great tea-clippers, and (perched like a baby sister alongside it) Francis Chichester's sturdy ketch Gipsy Moth IV; plus the NMM itself and its magnificent hillside satellite on Longitude 0°, the Old Royal Observatory.

More by historical accident than design, these buildings also constitute a textbook in stone to an unsurpassable period of English architecture: Wren, Jones, Van-



Canaletto's *Greenwich Hospital*, c.1750 (top); and (below) Richard Ormond, National Maritime Museum director, with new scheme

brugh and Hawksmoor all had a hand in Greenwich, at a time when it was still under royal patronage. "Greenwich affords one of the instances in which the monarch's property is actually the people's," wrote Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1863. "For a nobleman makes a paradise only for himself, and fills it with his own pomp and pride; whereas the people are sooner or later the legitimate inheritors of whatever beauty kings and queens create."

Yet Greenwich still needs further development. For one thing, it seems perverse that such a rich repository of maritime heritage on land should not be complemented

by an equally spectacular display on water. One of the supreme puzzles about Greenwich is why the Thames is so little used there, except by the pleasure steamers that ply their tourist trade towards Westminster.

Nobody would want to spoil the fabulous riverscape of Wren's Royal Naval College — practically unchanged from the scene captured by Canaletto — by mooring big vessels in front of it. But why not utilise one of the less picturesque riverbanks near by, and make it a floating temporary exhibition centre for everything from reconstructed Greek triremes and tall ships to passing naval vessels?

Upstream at Deptford, possibly, where Christopher Marlowe waited to make his escape on a vessel to France on the night he was murdered; or across the river at Millwall, where Brunel built his Great Eastern — six times larger than any ship then afloat — and launched it sideways into the Thames. Perhaps the mooted Thames river festival, which is apparently going to galvanise the riverbank each autumn from 1994, will seize the latent opportunities of the Thames at Greenwich.

● The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 (081-858 4422) is open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, and Sun 2pm-5pm.

clear enunciation, perhaps just lacking the final ounce of gravitas.

Andreas Trauboth's Eva was affecting and sensitively sung, especially once she had the Quintet underway, while Margit Neubauer was a properly youthful Magdalene, and Hans Jürgen Lazar a hearty, eager David. Jürgen Freier's Beckmesser and Victor von Stolzinger, He sang wretchedly and paid for it with a hostile reception. Perversely, no attempt was made to disguise Alan Titus's youth in the senior role of Sachs. It was marvellously sung, however, with well modulated tone and

CONCERT

Rising to a late challenge

Cherubini Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Since the end of June the Cherubini Quartet has been lacking that most challenging of all artistic Everests, the cycle of Beethoven's string quartets. Every day or every other day they have returned to the Wigmore Hall for a further instalment. What often happens in such cases is that concentration is diluted, but not here. After listening to the final episode, the quartet Op 131 and Op 135, I only wish I had heard the others.

The Cherubini, formed in Germany in 1978, is a marvellous ensemble, characterised by a firm, well-blended sound in which, crucially for this music, no single voice is allowed to predominate. Balance between blend and individuality is just about ideal. They know this music, as all mature quartets do, utterly, but they also know that they must play it as though constantly surprised and challenged by it.

Late Beethoven does not, today, easily tolerate those who approach it with the attitude of assured experience. We appreciate the sense of quest and wonder it induces in executants and listeners alike. That is why Harmonicists and Norrington's performances are so popular.

The Cherubini, in the external matters of the music, are perhaps not quite as extreme as those two. But the depth of emotions in that wondrous slow fugue opening Op 131 in C sharp minor was matched by a rich, dynamically restrained response, its progress as inexorable as the passage to the grave. This work is one of such varied ideas that in less wise hands, with minds less alive to every twist and turn, every abrupt change of gear, every subtle or less subtle metamorphosis, it can easily sound fragmented and anarchic until the final movement, which explains, explores and resolves everything that has gone before.

The final Quartet in F, Op 135, seems quite straightforward in comparison, and came across here like a piece of plain-speaking rectified after a searching philosophical discourse. Here the Cherubini relaxed into the music's natural impetus, the first movement characterised by deliciously quiet answering phrases and ending tantalisingly in mid-air.

● The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 (081-858 4422) is open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, and Sun 2pm-5pm.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Let's get metaphysical

An intimate epic brings India to a New York theatre

Fresh from winning a Tony award for his *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Terrence McNally gave the New York Theatre season an exhilarating start with *A Perfect Ganesh*. If there is such a genre as the intimate epic play, McNally has written and directed John Tullinger has beautifully staged it at the Manhattan Theatre Club.

Ganesh has structural affinities with *Angels in America* in telling realistic stories within a dramatised metaphysical framework. Sounds of finger-bells precede the curtain rising on a bronze statue of the elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesh. The god himself, delightfully personified in Santo Loquasto's costume and Dominic Cuskert's piquant performance, steps from behind the statue to narrate.

Ganesh also plays many supporting characters, as does versatile young actor Fisher Stevens, as the play tells the stories of two fifthly suburban matrons and longtime friends (Zoe Caldwell and Frances Sternhagen) on a trip through India.

They are also on a journey of healing. Both have had sons killed by blacks (which could be doubly too symmetrical, but McNally makes something lovely of the killers' difference); one has a cheating husband and possible breast cancer, the other seeks atonement for many sins of bigotry.

With the possible exception of a train-tunnel incident where a fondled breast appears designed only as a relief, the scenes unfold from Bombay to the Taj Mahal, developing the



Fine staging: Terrence McNally's *A Perfect Ganesh*

characters and relationship of the women, and charting their spiritual quests as they encounter numerous people including an AIDS-infected American youth, a generous Japanese tourist and a leper.

McNally achieves a rich balance between the exotic and realistic and avoids sentimentality through humour, from the Indian knock-knock joke that opens the second act, to using some characters speaking only Hindi (while the actors speak English) to show what waiters and maids think of those they serve. When the women are home in bed singing to themselves songs which recall their deepest pain, a score from one woman's husband makes the last

scene especially poignant. Ming Cho Lee's setting is of eight rectangular arches in pale grey, with sliding panels that allow decorative columns, staves, furniture and other props to appear magically. It is lit with dappled beauty by Stephen Strawbridge, and Scott Lehrer's sound designs evoke India in music, people, animals, and the resonant bells. In her heartfelt performance, Zoe Caldwell mutes her powerful presence and instrument as if she were not a trumpet but a cello, while Frances Sternhagen plays like a virtuoso violinist with temper and tenderness. *A Perfect Ganesh* is as close to perfect as McNally has come in his distinguished body of work.

HOLLY HILL

OPERA IN GERMANY: Barry Millington hails a thoughtful approach to a troubling work

Here at last is the production of Wagner's *Meistersinger* of Nuremberg I have been waiting for: one that penetrates beyond the bonhomie and high-spirited pantomime to reveal the dark underside of the opera. No work calls for such treatment more urgently than *The Mastersingers*, and Christof Nel's new production at the Frankfurt Opera, while less than a complete success in dramatic terms, responsibly but devastatingly tackles the complex issues at stake.

Some of us have been uneasy about *The Mastersingers* for a long time, not only in relation to Hans Sachs's nationalistic address at the end, but also because of the cruel treatment of the town clerk, Beckmesser. Recently it has been possible to demonstrate that in both text and music Beckmesser incorporates many of the characteristics associated with Wagner's Jews.

In short, the opera is the artistic counterpart of the ideological crusade launched by Wagner in the 1860s: a crusade to urge Germany to awaken, to expel alien elements and honour the "German spirit". The characterisation of Beckmesser is demonstrably anti-Semitic, and Cosima Wagner knew what she was doing when, after the Master's death, she allocated the role of those of Alberich and Mime in the Ring to Jews.

Nel's visual conception, with designs by himself and Max von Veltheim-Westernach, is anti-Romantic, but strikingly realised. The colour scheme is electric black (the Masters' oppressive in their secret-society regalia) and dazzling white (virginal Eva), with the odd splash of red (Walther's sash) or green-blue (apprentices).

The curtain rises to reveal not the congregation in St

Cruelty at the heart of Wagner's comedy

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Frankfurt Opera

Katharine's Church, but a white-walled interior with Walther and Eva, alone, standing immobile at either side of the stage. Alone, that is, apart from the youth in a loincloth, suspended high on the wall in crucifixion pose. At the end of the act, he slips away, suggesting that a new sacrificial lamb has to be found.

When Walther sings his Trial Song, the Masters enclose him on three sides, facing away. Some gradually turn in amazement a hint of comic potential not realised by Nel. His aim is more serious: the Masters, threatened by fear of the outsider, clutch each other protectively.

For Acts II and III the rear wall recedes to provide a vast open white space, virtually empty save for cobble Sachs's boots lined against the side wall. A large slab descends with a six-pointed star in the vicinity of Beckmesser. As with the yellow stars twirled by the rioting crowd at the end of the second act, when Beckmesser is beaten, the reference is not only to the yellow Jewish star of the 1930s, but to the Star of David, the patron saint of the Mastersingers. The chilling force of the juxtaposition is enhanced in the Riot Scene by the menacing lighting and grouping of the crowd, and by the vehemence of the singing.

In the aftermath of the collective frenzy (Act III), Sachs's shoes are piled in one of those appalling heaps all too familiar from 1930s photographs. But Nel's biggest coup is to fuel expectation of the usual bustling festival meadow in the last scene, with its guild banners, processions and gaily clad townsfolk. Instead, the curtain rises to a chorus of boos countered by cheers on a dark scene of atavistic horror: devils' masks, midsummer madness and, bestriding the stage, two outsize, bloated figures — not Nazi bosses, but far more sinister, ordinary people. The devil is within. The final chorus is shuddered the ensemble in superb form by the townsfolk, hidden in shadow, advancing to the front of the stage; lighting from below illuminates their shiny black boots, donned in response to Sachs's call to prepare themselves.

One admires Nel's refusal to make easy political statements, dealing instead with the more complex themes of sacrificial victims, scapegoatism and the fear of the Other. (Significantly, Beckmesser acquires his skull-cap only after his beating. He is not necessarily a Jew, but he plays the role of one.) Thus far Nel's production is a success, but there are long stretches of ill-motivated staging, unforgivable even within an anti-Romantic concept. Nel neither shows interest in the three-cornered love story (Walther, Eva and the relinquishing, avuncular, Sachs), nor puts anything in its place.

William Cochran, sagging

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This company (accessible location) are the biggest in their field from John O'Grady to the late of Wright. Their young MD needs a PA to assist him as they keep on growing. Your previous media experience will be of importance, as well as your skills of 100/60 & WP 5.1. (the secretarial is minimal, some minute taking). Apart from this you will be a 100% right hand. So if you are 27-35 and want a prosperous and healthy career within the media, please call us immediately. They need you today!

18-21 Jersey Street, London SW1V 6EP
Telephone 071 734 7341

GROSVENOR

PA IN PROMOTIONS £16,000

Experienced PA required to provide essential support to busy Director - candidates need professional standards, organisational ability, low of energy and strong communication skills. Previous work experience in a media industry preferred. Good keyboard skills - WordPerfect 5.1, Excel and some DTP - shorthand would be useful but not essential. Preferred age 24-32.

PA IN TV £14,000

Head of Production for a busy TV company is looking for a PA with excellent shorthand (80+ wpm) and good typing. Candidates must be prepared to work long hours, but a wonderful sleeping score for the right candidate. Preferred age 24-32.

GROSVENOR BUREAU
TEL: 071 499 8566

RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS

MONEY AND STABILITY 28K Package Age 21+

Our client a major US investment bank, who has continued to pay out large bonuses throughout the recession, wants to recruit 2 top calibre PA/Secs, for the trading floor.

The work is fast and pressurised and requires individuals with on-going personalities, intelligence, excellent presentation and communication skills. If you have banking experience and want to earn a substantial salary package please call:

Age 21-28. skills 4/6 useful 60 wpm. Large useful.

071 726 8491.

Angela Mortimer
SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

Computer Company, West End C.£16,000 Senior Secretary with Buying Power

Is this you now? Could this be you?
• In a secretarial/Admin role
• Feeling under-attired?
• Graduate or 'A' levels
• Responsible for purchasing office equipment
• Good organisational skills
• Outgoing personality
• Sourcing & buying computer equipment
• Regularly in contact with suppliers
• Greater responsibility
• Job satisfaction
• Constantly busy
• Profit share

Please send your CV to Debbie Robinson, Independent Computer Solutions Ltd (ICOS), 36-38 Canaby Street, London W1V 1PD. Tel: 071 494 0010

RETAIL SECRETARY To £15,000 + benefits

Leading high street store needs an active, highly experienced secretary to support a Senior Executive in his Head Office.

This responsible position entails the production of a variety of reports & presentation documentation & compiling correspondence, so advanced WP 5.1 skills are essential - Lotus 123 know-how would be a great asset.

Working for a demanding but very fair gentleman, you'll have a strong personality, excellent interpersonal skills & plenty of initiative. Benefits include generous store discounts & heavily subsidised restaurant.

Call LOUISE NORTON, 071 935 7246.

Office Angels

SHAFTESBURY HOMES

Office Manager/Director's PA
Intelligent, flexible, mature and lively person with sense of humour, enthusiasm and excellent organisational and communication skills required as lynch pin in small, busy Head Office of long established Children's Charity. WordPerfect 5.1 and good typing speeds essential.

Starting salary £13,000 + benefits

Please send CV with handwritten letter by 2 Aug (Interviews w/c 16 Aug) to Neil Baird-Murray, Director, Shaftesbury Homes & Arethusa, 3 Rectory Grove, London SW4 0EG.

TICKETMASTER

PA/Administration Manager required for the UK market leader in entertainment ticketing. The post initially involves assisting the Directors' PA/Administration Manager in her daily duties with the aim of assuming the complete role by the end of September.

We are looking for someone who is lively, intelligent, well-presented and well-spoken, who will display initiative and communicate easily with staff at all levels.

In addition to 55wpm typing and 80/90 wpm shorthand. Knowledge of WordStar and Pagemaker would be an advantage. The ideal candidate will be used to working at a senior level, have supervisory experience and be 23-30. £14,500 p.a. rising to £16,000.

Written applications with CV to: Philippa Bently, Ticketmaster UK Ltd, 48 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LR.
Closing date Tuesday 27 July.

BIRD AND BIRD LEGAL PA

Looking for a challenge? The Managing Partner requires a highly motivated Legal Secretary to provide confidential support for his activities and to help negotiate his busy schedule. Flexible, and able to show initiative and cope with pressure and all the demands that go with being the 'boss'. Educated to 'W' level you will possess excellent communication skills, initiative, honesty and a 'can-do' attitude. The firm has a non-sterling policy.

Please contact: Pauline Robinson, Personnel Manager West and East 50 Fleet Lane London EC4A 3DF

Around the World £15,000 pkg Age 19-22

Join this large, globally renowned company and you will know that you are working for the best in the field. Situated in fantastic offices you will enjoy a good social life and extremely generous benefits including paid over time and free lunch. Working for a cosmopolitan team of young executives, you will be kept busy using your excellent secretarial skills (50+ wpm typing). If you want to get your C.V. off to a flying start then please call Katy or Kate on 071 437 6852.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

OPEN DOORS into Merchant Banking to £25,000

Energy, poise and strong secretarial skills (shorthand 80+ appreciated) are prerequisites to join the ELITE of MERCHANT BANKS in the CITY.

We are currently holding PRIZE positions in P.R., Personnel, Marketing, Dealing Rooms and Corporate/International Finance. Ideal age 18-30.

Phone 071 374 2921 TODAY
5 London Wall Buildings
Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 5NT

Famous Names £20,000 + Bens

A superb opportunity has arisen within an extremely successful and well established Members' Agency, for an administrative/PA to assist one of their most senior directors. Your main task will be the ability to build strong and lasting links with all your names, create and maintain complex and efficient systems and assist the director with a myriad of interesting duties. This position requires superb communication and secretarial skills (90/60/60), with previous Members' Agency experience essential. Age 26-40. Please call Esther Marsden on 071 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

NICKELDEON SENIOR SECRETARIES

Circa £14,000

Nickelodeon, the US cable channel and the largest producer of children's television programming in the world, is launching a brand new channel just for UK kids in the autumn in a joint venture with British Sky Broadcasting.

We are seeking 3 highly professional and capable Senior Secretaries who have enthusiastic and flexible personalities.

This is an exciting and involving position in a fast paced environment where you will use your excellent secretarial and administrative skills.

Applicants should write in confidence, enclosing a full CV to Tina Davis, Personnel Department, 6 Centaurus Business Park, Grant Way, Isleworth, Middx. TW7 5QD.

Closing date 21st July 1993

GROSVENOR

RECEPTION

£12,000+
video games company is looking for a young receptionist to handle their busy front desk duties. Applicants need to have previous reception experience, have a good telephone manner and some typing skills. Preferred age: 20-28.

FIRST JOB?

£11,000
If you are a college leaver and possess competent secretarial skills plus a friendly manner - please contact us for more information...

GROSVENOR BUREAU
TEL: 071 499 8566

RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS

PR DEPARTMENT - Merchant Bank

A bright, confident, second jobber is needed for a new position within the lively PR department of this large Merchant Bank. Working for two managers you will be fully involved in all their projects - typing up the Group Newsletter, press releases etc., organising a busy schedule of business breakfasts and lunches for photographers and press contacts, co-ordinating extensive travel, maintaining and up-dating biographies, photographic files. You will provide full secretarial and administrative support and in addition will develop desk top publishing skills. Flexibility on overtime is a must. Shorthand (minimum 50wpm) is essential. Salary: £13,000 plus mortgage subsidy, paid overtime, profitshare.

PRIVATE BANKING - Directors PA

A polished, well presented secretary is required by a friendly, relaxed team of Bankers who are scheduled to set up their established department in new, luxurious offices in the City. There will be a high - profile press launch as well as a fair percentage of client entertainment which will require your efficient organisational skills. You will co-ordinate diaries and travel arrangements in addition to providing accurate audio/copy typing support (mainly correspondence and reports). You will speak to clients - very wealthy individuals - on a daily basis so need to be on the ball and learn all about their business. Salary: £15,000 plus mortgage subsidy etc.

Please call Marianne Hope/Jane Ellis
071 - 734 8484

**PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT**

SECRETARY Up To 22K

Leading Merchant Bank urgently seeks a terrific young secretary to work for 2 high-flying Directors. Variety, involvement and responsibility are offered in return for your professionalism, initiative, hard work and excellent secretarial skills. Arranged meetings and travel, liaison with high-profile clients, organise functions etc. Salary package includes M. Sub. paid overtime etc. Ideal age 20-30. Call us now on: 071 377 5500 or fax: 071 377 5589.

**CROSS
SELECTION**
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Going for Gold!

And they're off! Hobstones temps come hurtling down the final straight. They have set their sights on the best bookings in London and are armed with excellent WP skills, dedication and team spirit. If you have these qualities, let Hobstones carry you across the finishing line.

Prize money - to £10,000 ph.

Liv Se 071 377 9919 (Tina or Victoria)

McC Grouse 071 437 6052 (Liz or Lora)

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SENIOR SECRETARIES

c£16,000

Turnham Green

The Sutcliffe Catering Group, part of the Granada Group plc, is one of the largest staff catering management companies employing 20,000 people in the UK.

Due to the relocation of our Headquarters to Turnham Green, we are seeking to recruit Secretaries for the following Directors:

Quality Services Director

Group Personnel & Training Director

Group Finance Director and Department

Group Sales & Marketing Director and Department

Group Purchasing Director and Department

The successful candidates will be able to work under pressure, maintain confidentiality and work on their own initiative. Previous experience of working at Director level is essential together with 100wpm+ shorthand and 75wpm+ typing skills.

In addition, we have vacancies for:

Receptionist/Telephonist

Part-time Database Controller
(20 hours per week - previous experience and hands-on knowledge of databases/DOS required)

In return, we are offering salaries c.£16,000 per annum (depending on age and experience), 20 days' holiday entitlement and other benefits commensurate with a large 'blue chip' organisation.

We pride ourselves on our achievements, which directly reflect the commitment and ability of the people who work for us. If you would like to join our team, please send your Curriculum Vitae to: Mrs. S. Shambier, Sutcliffe Catering Group Ltd, Portland House, Aldermaston Court, Church Road, Aldermaston RG7 4XS. Closing date for applications is Friday 23rd July 1993.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

**SUTCLIFFE
CATERING**
THE QUALITY PARTNER

ART/MEDIA/DANCE/ANTIQUES

PA - SUPERSEC. To help expand small but diverse creative empire. Must be v. clever (graduate), mature (28ish), tranquil, computer literate, numerate & with a fine eye for design. To £18,000pa. CV's to SBC, 13 Church St, NW8 8DT.

WIMBLEDON

All rounder legal secretary for small busy solicitors office. Excellent Salary. 081 946 6046. Reference R.F.

START AT THE TOP

Senior Secretary

West London

Pleasant offices a stone's throw from Hammersmith tube station, a friendly team atmosphere and excellent salary and benefits including a nine-day working fortnight. A leader in worldwide engineering, no wonder Bechtel is a top choice with secretaries.

You'll be assisting one of our busy, senior managers with his day-to-day workload. It's a varied and responsible role which will involve producing finished documents, managing the diary, arranging travel and, in short, providing a full PA service.

Your secretarial experience should demonstrate first class word processing skills (Word Perfect or Word for Windows), good shorthand and ideally experience of using spreadsheets. As well as being able to work under pressure, you should be a confident communicator at all levels.

If you would like to work for a company dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, please apply in writing to Paul Oatham, Bechtel Ltd, 245 Hammersmith Road, London W6 8DP, quoting reference number A9307.

Bechtel

COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Temps come into their own

In January, surveying the new year job scene, we said that temping, "which went through a bad patch last year, might just be on the up". It is. In complete contrast to the picture of the last two years when employers were cutting back on replacement staff, many are moving back to employing temps — and the temps they are looking for are a new breed.

Counting the pennies carefully, companies have realised that temps at £8 to £10 an hour — up to £12 for personal assistants in some cases, with the agency fee on top — are not the extravagance they at first appear. First, temps do not command holiday, sick pay or pension contributions. Second, they leave on the exact day the contract terminates with no bad feeling or redundancy payments. And, third, they save on training costs: employers can demand the exact combination of skills they require. They can specify typing and shorthand speeds. If they want someone capable of using three out of four specific word processing systems they can ask for those, with no cross-training to worry about.

A temp's contract can now be for almost any length of time, with assignments from six to even 12 months becoming more common.

Many hard-pressed employers have rediscovered a willing and highly flexible workforce, says Beryl Dixon

Sue Cook, a director of the Workshop consultancy, part of the Gordon Yates Group, says: "Yesterday we placed a receptionist at Ham for the remainder of the day. I handle numerous one-year contracts and I have one temp in a company not allowed to recruit additional permanent staff, whose contract has been renewed annually for five years."

Irene Anderson, a director of BSB Dorland Advertising Agency, says: "The temps I get today are very professional compared with the days when you thought, 'It's OK so long as they can type'. I always use the same agencies who know exactly what I want — no college leavers or first or second-jobbers. I regard them as more experienced. They must also be fully conversant with all our computer systems."

It isn't cost-efficient to re-train them here."

Brenda Hemmings, personnel director of News International, is equally specific. "I demand all the traditional skills, fast typing, audio, shorthand and a range of word packages. If I found that I had been misled by an agency keen to get my custom they would not get it back."

"I always make a point of chatting to the temps when they arrive, and I would soon find out, for example, if they had 60 words per minute shorthand rather than 90."

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be the person who has the job of keeping these exacting employers and you, the temp or prospective temp, happy?

Ms Cook describes her job as similar to permanent placement work, but at a faster pace. "I have known some of the temps for several years. Some still temp between permanent assignments and might ring me, saying, 'I temped for you four years ago, can you help?' Others are 'permanent' temps because they prefer the lifestyle."

"Whatever their reason for temping, I must get the placement right. Clients are more demanding and I do not have any favours if I send a girl on the wrong assign-



In contact: a phone call each week, temps' parties and regular newsletters are ways of keeping in touch, says Lisa Knight

ment. She isn't happy and the client won't come back."

Ms Cook says she spends a lot of time visiting clients to get to know their business thoroughly. "They want someone to be an extension of their company from Day One and I have to know what niche I am filling." She also enjoys establishing a relationship with the temps. "I must know where all of them are at any given moment, in case a job comes up suddenly."

"I think a temp manager's main attribute is a sunny personality. I

still have to smile on difficult days when under pressure."

Lisa Knight, at Maine-Tucker, in central London, agrees. "It's very stimulating work and rewarding if you like a hectic pace. The phone rarely stops and you have to be able to do at least three things simultaneously. I think you'll find that we are all pretty extrovert."

Ms Knight also enjoys building relationships. "I know the employers really well through regular visits — I visit the ones where we have large contracts weekly — and

when an assignment comes in I can usually mentally fit a temp to do it."

I phone every temp at least once a week, for a chat and to see how they are. We also stay in touch by organising temps' parties from time to time and everyone gets a regular newsletter which I compile.

"I think the main requirement of the work is the ability to thrive under pressure and come up with instant solutions. I have a varied client list. Some ask me to find temps to do highly focused tasks. They might request someone, for

example, competent in Excel, Persuasion and Apple Mac and with a particular type of personality — to start within 24 hours. Others, including some well-known companies, now have a permanent workforce of temps as a matter of policy — all found and replaced as necessary by us on a contract basis.

"Some assignments still require someone at very short notice. Last week a well-known author rang from a London hotel — and I had someone there within a couple of hours."

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

BRANCH MANAGER £ Attractive Salary & Benefits Package

In the seven years since it opened, Office Angels has come to the forefront of national recruitment. One of the main reasons for this is undoubtedly our personnel - talented consultants picked for their commitment, integrity and professionalism are central to our success.

Now we need two exceptional people to lead two such teams of consultants - one in Birmingham, one in Bristol. You'll be resourceful, articulate and well educated, with management experience, business acumen, a pioneering spirit and a way with people. It's hard work but the potential rewards in terms of job satisfaction and earnings are considerable.

Please write, in complete confidence, to: LYNNE SHIELDS, Area Director, Office Angels Ltd, 69 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4DU.

Office Angels

With over 190 branches nationwide and around 1000 employees, Safeguard is a major High Street Insurance retailer and part of the MAI Group. Due to the relocation of several operational teams to our Northwood Hills, West London office, a vacancy exists for a:

PA TO OPERATIONS DIRECTOR GOOD SALARY + BENEFITS

Candidates should have several years secretarial/PA experience at Director level, with excellent communication and organisation skills. Word Perfect and Lotus experience is essential as is the ability to work on your own initiative. If you are interested in this challenging position, please forward your CV with covering letter to:

Mr Chris Barwell, Personnel Director, Safeguard Insurance Services Limited, 1-3 Mancus Place, Cardiff, CF1 3BD

SAFEGUARD
INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

TEAM SPIRITED SECRETARY £16,000

Young, fun and very sociable City professionals urgently require a like-minded secretary. P.R. and marketing with clients is an essential part of this varied role. You will ideally be keen, competent and efficient with an enquiring mind and a lively personality. Working with these three chambers will be challenging, demanding but above all - fun! Good typing is essential. Please call us now on: 071 377 6500 or fax 071 377 5589.

CROSS
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Top Teamster £14-15,000

As Secretary to a Senior Consultant and his team in a busy SW1 Management Consultancy, you will be amongst the best in the business. Based in exceptional offices, your duties in the Recruitment Division will involve client and candidate interviewing, meeting, travel and typing presentations. Being an enthusiastic and flexible team player is a must! Skills 55+/w.p. 3-5 years' experience necessary. Please call Christine on 071 437 6822.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT Salary £18,000 per annum.

We are producing a mail-order home catalogue for the North American Market, all the products being British based. We are urgently seeking someone to assist the Product Development team. The primary function will be:

- liaising with suppliers, following up and chasing orders
- co-ordinating packaging and labelling for all products, liaising with the company's public relations consultants.
- briefing suppliers on packaging and delivery instructions.

The candidate must be energetic, innovative, flexible and self-motivated and be capable of using the company's computer system, Word for Windows.

If you are interested could you please write enclosing your CV to: Geoffrey Collins, Personnel Consultant at EAC, 120/122 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 3PT, or telephone 071 378 7736.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORS SECRETARY

We are a successful PR consultancy seeking a secretary to work as part of a team, ideally with a background in public relations and to assist a Head of Public Relations with a variety of tasks and to assist a Head of Public Relations with a variety of tasks and to assist a Head of Public Relations with a variety of tasks.

Salary £15,000 - £18,000 + bonus. BPPA, Travel team. Please apply to: Jan Harding, Personnel Consultant at EAC, 120/122 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 3PT, or telephone 071 378 7736.

ADVERTISING SECRETARY, W2
Required by growing agency for experienced, energetic, and motivated individual. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Salary £12,000 - £14,000. Please send CV to: The Recruitment Centre, 120/122 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 3PT.

JOB SEARCH TO £19,000

Our Client, a successful placement consultancy in EC3, requires key support staff to play a responsible role assisting individuals in their search for employment. In addition to using your inherent personality and intuition in counselling clients you will be involved in all aspects of the daily running of this small, team orientated office. Your skills on Wordperfect 5.1 and fast, accurate typing will be in constant demand as you prepare CVs and produce presentations. If you are mature, articulate and computer literate, please call Peter on 071 377 3919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

LEGAL PA SECRETARIES £17,000

We're a superb selection of prime positions at a number of leading professional practices. If you're sound secretarial experience in any area of the legal profession, possess excellent W.P., audio &/or shorthand skills & want to broaden your career horizons, we'll help you make that move. Call DEBRA LEVER at JOANNA PERKINS, 071 430 2531.

Office Angels

£24,000 - Banking

The chairman of a leading City bank needs a superb PA. This role covers a wide spectrum - an exceptionally full diary, a torrent of telephone calls, daily visitors and in-house personal and social activities.

This fascinating but extremely demanding appointment requires experience at senior level, nimbleness of thought, a lively presence and excellent technical skills. Age 28-35. Skills 110/70.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES 071 629 9323

LEGAL SECS

We urgently need experienced legal wordprocessing secretaries with any of the following skills:

WORDPERFECT 5.1 & 5.2
WORDPERFECT FOR WINDOWS
WANG OIS/VS/OFFICEWRITER
WHOOPLUS, SCREEN TYPER, SHORTHAND

Immediate bookings. Top rates paid! Call Heather Coulson on 071-236 2955

ASA LAW

SENIOR SECRETARY-WCI

Professional Project Management Company requires a Secretary to support one of its Directors and his busy team. The successful applicant will have proven experience at a senior level with good audio and wordperfect 5.1 skills. A good telephone manner and the ability to liaise with clients and work on own initiative is essential.

Please Reply with CV to Box No 3057 stating current salary

MERIDIAN TRADING FLOOR

£16-18,000 + Bank Bonus
£16,000 + Benefits
Lively young team at a European bank need a determined and quick thinking Secretary/Assistant to support them in this fast moving environment. Excellent prospects. Call Alex Butterworth. 071 255 1555

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MARKETING ASSISTANT FOR SOLICITORS

We are a medium-sized firm of City Solicitors based in modern offices in EC1. We are currently looking for an experienced person to help expand our already successful marketing activities.

The successful candidate is likely to have an appropriate degree and/or professional qualification, be reasonably computer literate, have an outgoing personality with good communication skills and a high standard of personal presentation.

Reporting to the partner responsible for marketing, the successful candidate will be concerned with all aspects of our corporate image, marketing and associated activities. We envisage the position would initially involve three days per week, although this will depend on the responsibilities the candidate is able to assume. The exact hours and salary are negotiable.

If you would like to be considered for this position please write with cover details to:

Karen Elton, Personnel Administrator
Travers Smith Bradbush, 18 St. James's, London EC1A 2AL

Closing date for applications: 28 July 1993.

ADMINISTRATOR

5-6 month contract
salary £14,560 pro rata

An experienced and well organised Administrator with good wordprocessing (Wordperfect 5.1) and spreadsheet (Lotus 123) skills is required at London Business School from mid or late August to provide 5 or 6 months maternity cover in the office that manages the recruitment, employment and resourcing of academic staff in the School.

You have good interpersonal, telephone and writing skills, discretion in liaising with senior contacts and are flexible and able to work under pressure. You also have the ability to learn quickly and have proven administrative skills.

Benefits will include 10 days paid holiday (incl. Xmas), non smoking work environment, restaurants and gym on site and STL.

To apply please write, enclosing your CV, to Ms L. Hoare, Personnel (MC2), London Business School, Sunway Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4SA by 20 July.

RECRUITMENT MANAGER £20,000+

Are you an experienced recruitment manager or consultant with a proven track record in permanent &/or temporary recruitment? Capable of coping with the challenge of building up a West End recruitment section for an established small private group.

The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator with top motivational and "man management" capabilities, a mature positive approach and the drive & desire to succeed in today's market.

Also consultants opportunities
For an initial discussion please reply with CV to: Mr Nicholas of Acme Appointments at our Head Office 315 Oxford Street, London W1A 1AB or telephone 071-495 9975 (0923 858018 evenings). Fax 071-495 4383.

SECRETARY

Salary: £14,500 - £15,000
Depending on Experience

Alexandra Palace & Park are looking for a bright and experienced person to work as a Secretary to the General Manager.

The person appointed will need to possess excellent shorthand/audio and word processing skills, together with good organisational and communication abilities, be self-motivated and well-presented.

For further details please contact:

Yvonne Patterson or Carol Carnegie
Alexandra Palace & Park, Wood Green
London N22 4AY or 083-265 2121, ext 2167/2270
Closing date for completed applications is 30 July 1993 - interviews will be held first week in August.

Anscombe & Ringland

SECRETARY

required by Anscombe & Ringland residential lettings in St. Johns Wood to assist in running our Property Management Service. Good WP skills needed and attractive salary on offer.

Ring Sarah Barrett on 071-722 7101.

SECRETARY

Required for active Property Company, Educated to 'A' Level standard. Enthusiastic, Self-Motivated & Reliable. Property experience preferable. WP and STL essential. £16,000 pa negotiable. Please write with CV to: John Hickson, Personnel Management (CHS) Ltd, 21-23 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PE

TEMPTING TIMES

Maine-Tucker Temporaries Recruitment

YOU'VE SEEN THE REST.... ...NOW TEMP FOR THE BEST!

No less than £8.00 an hour and up to £12.00

No doubt you've read all the glossy promises in the Press...the bonuses...the prizes...the cars that you could receive if you temp for company "X". But, hold on a minute, aren't some of these offers just a little far fetched...wouldn't it be nice to actually hear from other temps - in the same position as you - their honest opinion? Here at Maine-Tucker we think you'd like this. So below are the faithfully recorded comments that our Temps made recently regarding the very Maine-Tucker takes care of them. So take a look and judge for yourself.

"I have temped with Maine-Tucker for only three months and they have treated me like one of the family" L. Gilder.

"I just wanted to write to you and thank you for the fun time I had temping with Maine-Tucker" M. Duthie.

"Maine-Tucker listen to what you have to say, they always make time for you" S. Campbell (Solicitor).

So, if you'd like to work for our brilliant Clients and you've got good typing (shorthand would be great too) and the people you work for are important. Please call us to discuss your situation.

18-21 Jersey Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6EP
Telephone 071 734 7341

UP FRONT! To £10,000ph

We need friendly, professional temps with good skills who can join our well-known, busy temp team immediately.

You need:

- ★ To be proficient on Wordperfect 5.1/any Windows package
- ★ Good, accurate keyboard skills
- ★ Shorthand if possible - it's always an advantage
- ★ A flexible, positive approach
- ★ Pay you an excellent hourly rate
- ★ Thoroughly assess your skills
- ★ Aim to keep you very busy!

Ring us now to find out more about the team:
City: 071-377 8827
Avalon/ROMA

West End: 071-434 4512
Maida-London/Sally

Crone Corkill Temps

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

AUCTION WP sec W6 for windows 2000 hours 60 wpm City 071-434 4512
City: 071-377 8827
Avalon/ROMA

URGENT! 5 month temp booking. 10 wpm 2-3 daily working for MD on Wordperfect 5.1. Excellent & accurate with good experience. Previous temp. at director level. Annual salary £12,000. 071-437 2108. For interview appointment, please call 071-437 2108. Cheshire, London W1.

WORDPERFECT 5.1, word shorthand and typing speeds essential for reports/personal correspondence. Previous temp. at director level. Annual salary £12,000. 071-437 2108. For interview appointment, please call 071-437 2108. Cheshire, London W1.

RECEPTION SELECTION

Receptionist

Design - £11-15,000

Brilliant opening for bright, alert Receptionist with this eye-catching design company. This is a progressive, professional and highly successful environment. As their first point of contact you will need to be smart, confident and well spoken. Reception experience essential. Accurate keyboard skills (45 wpm) also required. Call today for further details on 071-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

PART-TIME required for West End Receptionist to assist office manager. £12,000. 071-437 2108. For interview appointment, please call 071-437 2108. Cheshire, London W1.

RECEPTIONIST with wordprocessing skills for a senior office in a leading business. £12,000. 071-437 2108. For interview appointment, please call 071-437 2108. Cheshire, London W1.

CREME DE LA CREME

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST FOR PROPERTY DEVELOPER

We need a young energetic receptionist/typist to join our small, extremely active property development company, currently in a fast growing phase. The successful candidate will be a bright, enthusiastic, self-motivated individual with a good knowledge of WP and skills of (90/60) wpm. No Smoker. To start September. Salary Negotiable. Car £15,000 + Free lunch & parking facilities. Telephone Ruth Green on 071 278 4868 for further details.

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Famous setting for opening of women's cricket World Cup



Dressed for the occasion: Dorte Christiansen, of Denmark, poses for photographers at the opening ceremony of the women's cricket World Cup at the Oval yesterday. Denmark will provide the opening opposition for England, at Banstead, when the competition gets under way on Tuesday at club

grounds around the country. The games will be played on a league basis, with the two top sides meeting in the final at Lord's on August 1. Totally amateur, women's cricket lacks big sponsors and this tournament represents its best chance of publicity. Karen Smithies, the England captain, said: "We have

been building up to this for several years and I would like to emulate Rachael Heyhoe-Flint and lift the World Cup as she did 20 years ago." Each of England's players has spent several thousand pounds of their own money to represent their country. "We've been meeting for practice virtually every weekend

since February," Smithies, 24, a betting shop manager, said. The other teams in the competition are Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, India, Ireland and Holland. The World Cup was officially opened by Sir Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the International Cricket Council. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

President happy with bid to stage Olympics

BY JOHN GOODBODY

JUAN Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said yesterday that Manchester was doing "a wonderful job" in trying to get the 2000 Olympic Games. But he declined to give the city his personal backing.

Samaranch spent yesterday touring the north-west looking at prospective sites for the Games. He said that, because he was the IOC president, he did not have any voting powers and the decision on the venue for the Games was up to the 92 other members of the IOC when the poll is taken in Monte Carlo on September 23.

Samaranch said that Manchester's bid had improved considerably from when he was in the city four years ago, when it attempted to obtain the 1996 Games but went out in the second round of the competition won by Atlanta.

He said: "I have to congratulate the organisers on this bid. I believe that there is a lot of improvement compared to four years ago. A lot of venues are under construction and if only the bidding process can achieve this, we can see what will happen if Manchester is awarded the Games."

Asked if he had any advice for the organisers, he said: "They should work very hard until the last minute." Asked whether the technical report that confirmed Sydney as the front-runner was important, he replied: "Yes. It is an education for IOC members but it is not everything."

Samaranch will today see John Major, the prime minister, at No 10 Downing Street, for an informal meeting before having lunch with leading figures in the British Olympic Association and the Manchester bid.

A triumph for Manchester is that Major has promised to be in Monte Carlo for the vote to help promote the candidate city against its rivals — Sydney, Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia and Istanbul.

The government has already underwritten the £2 billion cost of staging the biggest sports event in the world and provided £70 million in cash for creating two facilities that Samaranch saw being built yesterday.

Gordon faces BAF enquiry

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading field event athletes, Peter Gordon, has been suspended by the British Athletic Federation (BAF) pending an investigation into a drugs test infringement, ruling him out of the trials for the world championships in Birmingham this weekend.

Gordon, ranked No 2 in the discus this season, faces a BAF hearing after failing to provide the required urine sample at the British championships at Crystal Palace five weeks ago. He has written to the BAF asking for the suspension to be lifted for the trials but is yet to receive a reply.

"I think I would have heard by now if I was going to be reinstated for the weekend," Gordon, who is the northern and inter-counties champion, said yesterday. "There was an incident at the British championships and it is being dealt with according to our rules and procedures." It was all that David Bedford, the BAF secretary, would say.

If Gordon, 42, is banned he will join Jason Livingston, Neal Brunning and Robert Hamilton-Jones on the list of British athletes suspended for contravening drugs regulations. While Livingston and Brunning failed tests, Hamilton-Jones was banned for not providing a sample.

"It was not a case of saying I was not going to provide a sample," Gordon said. "I suppose that, technically, I have contravened the doping procedures, so I have got to go before an enquiry. I provided a partial sample. As a result they suspended me from competition and there is a hearing in the next few weeks. I have never taken drugs. That did not come into it."

"I have been competing for over 20 years and have always been available for drugs tests. They have always been negative. But, on this occasion, pressure was building up at work and I had to get back. As far as I know they have tested it (the partial sample) and it is negative."

The BAF declined to discuss the case yesterday. "There was an incident at the British championships and it is being dealt with according to our rules and procedures," was all that David Bedford, the BAF secretary, would say.

Bumpy ride adds spice

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a new spirit abroad in professional golf. It is an acceptance that the rule of the green, in the form of uneven fairways and unpredictable weather, forms an acceptable aspect of the Open, the most historic of the major championships. There is no more point in raging against it than there is in raging against the rising of the sun or the setting of the moon.

Lec Janzen, the US Open champion, is an articulate proponent of this view point. Dave Musgrove, his caddie at last year's Open, reported that

With *The Times* today a 20-page colour guide to the Open Championship

Janzen could not wait for the rain to start at Muirfield so that he could don his waterproofs and play the Open in what he had always considered to be the appropriate conditions.

"It's great to play golf like this," the 28-year-old said after his second practice round at Royal St George's, where the 122nd Open starts tomorrow. "It's totally different and it's nice to hit different shots. I've watched British Opens on TV and read about them and I know the ball is going to bounce in funny ways and the

wind is going to blow." On such a bumpy course as Sandwich, whose fairways can resemble a rumbled duvet, it is easy to complain at the uneven bounces. "But that applies to all links courses," Sandy Lyle, the 1985 Open champion, pointed out. "Last year at Muirfield it rained a bit and that cut down on the bounces." "Don't forget," added Tom Watson, five times the Open champion, "you can get a very good break from a bad shot as well as getting a bad break from a good shot."

Increasingly, the professionals are expressing a feeling of pleasure at the unusual shots a course such as Sandwich expects them to be able to play. "In the US our Tour tends to follow the seasons," Janzen said yesterday. "The courses are the same. We are flying the ball at the flag. It is target golf. Over here you have to figure yourself a new number. If you are 180 yards downwind you know you hit it 140 yards here and not 180 like in the US."

Whereas US Open courses with their narrow fairways, deep rough and fast greens demand rigorous accuracy and nerveless putting, Open courses test a player's imagination in thinking up a shot and then his skill in executing it. "Seve [Ballesteros] has been so good because he can invent shots

you normally don't have to play," Greg Norman, the 1986 Open champion, said. "But you have to play them around St George's and that's why I love playing over here. You have to play a vast variety of golf to get the ball from A to B. It is true golf."

Because these conditions are so unfamiliar to Americans, it is they who have spoken out most strongly about them in the past. But Payne Stewart allied himself with the supporters, rather than the critics, of the Open when he said: "I wish we would play more often on courses like these. It is good to see the ball land 30 yards short of the green and run on. If we

had that in the US it would make us better players."

This year the shortage of rain in southeast England has left St George's bone hard, as firm as any Open course has been in living memory. This adds an extra factor into the equation: namely the extra distance a ball will roll. "You could hit a pitching wedge 150 yards downwind or a six-iron 120 yards into the wind," Nick Faldo, the defending champion, said after a couple of practice rounds.

Being beside the seaside makes St George's more susceptible to weather variations. In the space of half an hour yesterday afternoon, for example, the wind rose considerably. Rain had been forecast for midday but did not materialise. Instead, it arrived soon after 5pm and only a few minutes later it came with a vengeance. Half an hour after that, the wind had fallen again and the rain had stopped.

Is the course unfair, Watson was asked. "I would prefer to say unlucky," he replied. "It is a feel course. You have to feel the shot into the fairway and into the hole. It is not a target course."

Watson is 43, an elder statesman on the US Tour, and captain of the US Ryder Cup team to play at The Belfry in September. He has played in every Open since 1975,



Janzen: likes challenge

which he won, and four Ryder Cup teams, three in Britain. His view of the Open, its conditions, its challenge, thus stands scrutiny. "You have to understand the bumps. In the US if they built a course like this, they'd say 'what's this guy been drinking?' But it has a lot of character. The more I play it, the more I like it."

Open pairings, page 38
Patricia Davies, page 38

Samaranch's day, page 2

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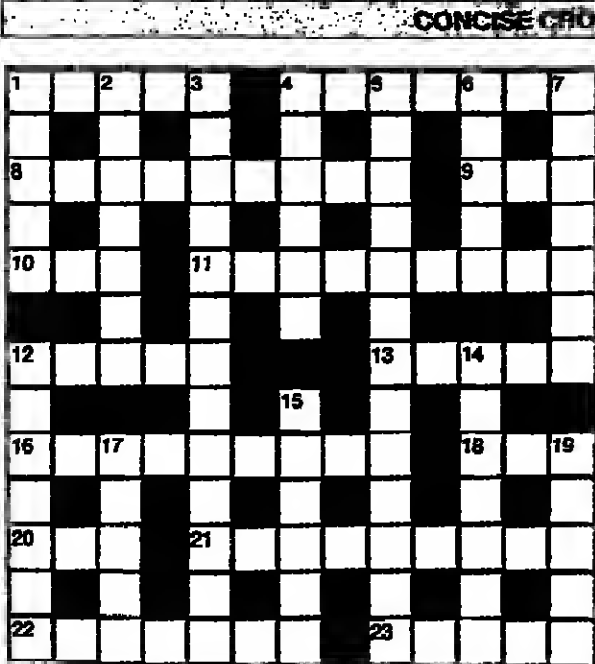
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ACROSS

- 1 Automation (5)
- 4 Pavil device (7)
- 8 Air (9)
- 9 Drilling platform (3)
- 10 Falsehood (3)
- 11 Antidote of homage (9)
- 12 Employed (2,3)
- 13 Jockey's straps (5)
- 16 Worker's record (9)
- 18 Eavesdropping device (3)
- 20 Salesman (5)
- 21 Price increase rate (9)
- 22 Shyness (7)
- 23 Supply (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3146

ACROSS: 1 Rocket 5 Debtor 8 Aibly 9 Takeaway 10 Tinsel 12 Hide 15 At loggerheads 16 Mess 17 Induce 19 Democrat 21 Pail 22 Syntax 23 Crying

DOWN: 2 Oubliette 3 Key 4 Tutelage 5 Dyke 6 Beach-head 7 Ova 11 Stop short 13 Deduction 14 Artistic 18 Crux 20 Ely 21 Pay

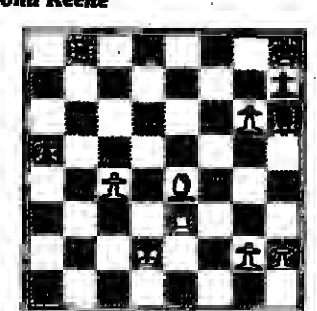
DOWN

- 1 Willow (5)
- 2 Head band (7)
- 3 Adjust to circumstances (4,4,5)
- 4 Harvester (6)
- 5 Path to fortune (8,5)
- 6 Tall grey wader (5)
- 7 Passionate woman (7)
- 12 Meantime (7)
- 14 Integral (7)
- 15 Bell tower (6)
- 17 Light motor cycle (5)
- 19 Congealed matter (5)

By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from Plaskett — Watson, Watson, Farley & Williams/City of London Corporation Chess Challenge 1991. Does black have anything better than the capture on e3?

To book your seat for *The Times* World Chess Championships-in-the-Strand ring Simpson's on 071-836 9112. Anyone booking a ticket in July will be offered a complimentary lunch at Simpson's.



Solution on page 36
Championship Chess, page 5

By Philip Howard

CATAPHATIC

- a. Having writer's block
- b. Defining God positively
- c. Stammering

KRAGDADIG

- a. Resolute
- b. Rescue archaeology
- c. A silicate quartz

Answers on page 36

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